

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, November 13, 2012

2nd Floor Lunch Room – Town Hall

**DRAFT Minutes**

Present are BOWC Chair James Gmeiner, Vice-Chair Jessica Cajigas, Member Gary Hogle, Water Superintendent Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager April Iannacone.

Mr. Gmeiner called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

**Baddacook Well Pump - Richard Davee Wright Pierce**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that Mr. Rick Davee was present from Wright Pierce to give a quick update on the Baddacook Well pump replacement project. Mr. Hogle asked Mr. Davee if the check valve that was currently present at the well would still function with the new pump that would be installed or if the department would need to change it for a new one. Mr. Davee replied that he was not certain but at this time he wanted to proceed immediately with the Bid requests as soon as possible because it would take time to get the quotes in and the pump ordered. Then once the pump is ordered and in process Wright Pierce can use the pump specs to make the determination on all other factors like the check valve and then add any changes necessary into the bid package for the install services of the pump. Mr. Davee stated that the cost of the pump was looking to be approximately \$20,000 and the installation would be approximately \$15-20,000. The original cost estimate when the plan began was approximately \$30,000 for the whole job, but with time, additions and changes to the specs it was likely going to be closer to \$40,000 total. Mr. Hogle stated that when the Energy Audit Team had been out to Baddacook to review the systems and reviewed the plan for the new pump they believed that the pump specs that Wright Pierce was suggesting were oversized for the needs. Mr. Davee replied that he believed that they had not taken into account the VFD, but that if Mr. Orcutt got him the contact information for the team he would close the loop and discuss these things with them directly before the bid package went out. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Davee for his time and Mr. Orcutt stated that he would contact him the next day with the Audit Team contact information.

**Lost Lake – Aquatic Weed Control (Sonar)**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that the Conservation Commission had closed their public hearing and at this time the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) would be looking for Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds in the spring for the application of the Sonar weed control treatment. The Board members were concerned that the Conservation Commission closed the public hearing in 1 night which had not allowed them to take the information provided about the treatment, have a discussion and give written input on their position/opinion. The Commissioners all agreed that they were not in favor of the treatment.

**Fiscal Year 2014 Budget**

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that he was in the process of working on the draft version of the fiscal year 2014 budget and would have it out to them for review as soon as possible. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there was anything different or abnormally large expenses coming up for the new fiscal year. Mr. Orcutt replied that at this time the water #2 truck that was the front line truck was due for replacement as it will likely have approximately 100,000 miles on it as of the end of this

fiscal year. The only other new thing would be a request for a part time employee to be shared with the Highway Department to get an entry level employee in to help with operations and maintenance, but to also begin the licensing procedure in order to have someone work their way up the system and eventually be a fully licensed backup down the road if ever there is a personnel turnover.

**Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion regarding the topics listed on his May 8th, 2012 Superintendent's Report. Please see attached report for a summary of those issues.

Respectfully Submitted

April Iannacone  
Business Manager

James Gmeiner \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Gary Hoglund \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Jessica Cajigas \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Superintendent's Report

November 12, 2012

1. Unkety Brook Well Site: DEP – CER0 has issued the final permit for the Unkety Brook Well.
2. Forestry Management: Waiting for our Forester, Dan Cyr, to mark the Baddacook Pond Well Site for harvesting. This project site will be lumped into the Shattuck Well Site for a better return to the GWD and top the logging company (too small of a project is not cost effective for the loggers).
3. Water Treatment Plants: The Baddacook cistern has been cleaned (pantonite – acid treatment) and looks really good. I am going to have the backwash tank cleaned in the same manner so as to eliminate as much of the iron bacteria as possible and remove it from the process water / filters.

The SCADA installation for the Whitney Well Facility is working smoothly. I will not have ITS return until adjustments are needed for the Baddacook Facility when the new pumps are installed.

4. Fall Flushing Program: the Fall Flushing Program has been completed. Minor adjustments/revisions were made to the program. We will revisit/discuss those changes for the Spring Flushing Program, but more than likely, we will follow the full scale flushing schedule as documented.
5. Water Consumption: Both September and October consumption was less than last year. For the Calendar Year we will be approximately 10M less than the last 2 years but slightly above the 10 year average.
6. Generator: Additional repairs made prior to Hurricane Sandy (fuel filter removed – unit had three). The generator works under a load beautifully. The Whitney Well will be wired for Generator use in December.
7. Fiscal Year 2014: A Preliminary Budget is being put together for internal discussion. System Development Revenues are projected to be less than the previous 2 years at my first pass (down 25%).
8. Construction: External water projects coming to a close. Internal (GWD) construction projects are ramping up. The Whitney II well is going to get a light cleaning prior to being reassembled. Emergency repairs are around \$5K.. The repairs to the shaft have been made and will be reinstalled shortly (within a 1 week). The Baddacook Cistern has been cleaned and the back wash tank will be cleaned next week. Quotes for the purchase and installation of the new pit less adapter for Baddacook will be received at the end of the month for a December installation. Electrical conduit will be installed in late November.

9. Billing Software: The new billing software is being converted by NDS with some internal training taking place in November. It is anticipated we should be live before the end of the calendar year. Or early in January. We also received a new hand held meter reading unit so that the reads come in better and we don't lose time with that process.