

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, February 13th, 2018
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy and technician candidate Stephen Straker.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Interview: Stephen Straker

Mr. Orcutt introduced Mr. Straker and explained to the board that five applicants had been interviewed and Mr. Straker was a top candidate. Mr. Straker is currently working as a Water Technician in Pepperell. Town Manager Mr. Haddad has met him and pending board approval; he will attend the February 26th Selectman's meeting to be appointed. Mr. Fishbone asked if Pepperell's water system is similar to Groton's and Mr. Orcutt explained that many aspects are similar. Mr. Orcutt also explained that Mr. Straker is a journeyman plumber, has an OSHA certificate, Treatment 1 license, and is in the process of obtaining his distribution license. He would be fully licensed for the technician position prior to Mr. Brackett retiring. Mr. Orcutt also believes that Mr. Straker could obtain his cross connection license. Mr. Fishbone made a motion to hire Stephen Straker at a starting pay of \$26.00 per hour, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt reported that water levels are slightly up in comparison to last year. He also sees improvement due to leaks being fixed.

Whitney Pond Well Construction Update – Superintendent

Mr. Orcutt reported that things are going great and we are ahead of schedule. The SCADA panel was switched on yesterday and tested, and the power was being switched over today. Demolition at Whitney Well 1 will begin this week. Mr. Fishbone asked if we have heard about the grant and Mr. Orcutt said he reached out and was told it would take a few more weeks. Mr. Orcutt was able to hold off on paying certain charges that could be covered by the grant funds.

Baddacook Pond Update

Mr. Orcutt will be attending a meeting next Wednesday, February 21st at the Forbes' residence with other residents of Badacook Pond to discuss the plan for year two of the weed removal process.

72 Boathouse Rd

Mr. Orcutt had spoken to Michael Rosa who purchased 72 Boathouse Rd and was inquiring about waiving the water connection fee. Mr. Orcutt explained that we do not waive fees but that Mr. Rosa could speak to the Board of Water Commissioners, but Mr. Rosa did not attend the meeting. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to not waive the water connection fee at 27 Boathouse Rd, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt drafted an article warrant to give to the Town Manager, Mr. Haddad. The commissioners will need to assist in completing the warrant by deciding how much to transfer out of the enterprise fund at the Spring Town meeting. We planned on transferring funds to pay for the cost of new meters. The exact amount will need to be calculated at a future meeting.

Mr. Orcutt hasn't heard anything from the NESSP Temple but has spoken to someone from their insurance company regarding the leak on Christmas Day.

Mr. Orcutt has not heard any updates regarding Indian Hill.

Mr. Orcutt said that meters have been installed at the Groton Inn and they still plan to open in May.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if the Groton Country Club's tavern has its own water meter since the new tenant will be paying the water bill. Mrs. Crory will check this.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 23rd, 2018 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 17 were signed.

Executive Session #3 Collective Bargaining

At 8:25pm, Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to go into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, Sec 21(a) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair so declare, not to reconvene in open session. Roll call was taken and Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Fishbone were present.

As reported to Mrs. Crory by Mr. Orcutt, Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 9:00pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager