

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, May 1st, 2018
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Whitney Pond Well Construction

Mr. Orcutt said that the technicians ran Whitney I for two hours today and are getting comfortable running it. Mr. Fishbone asked if everything is installed and Mr. Orcutt said yes, besides a few minor parts. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the DEP needs to come out and inspect the work before we start using it full time and Mr. Orcutt replied that they will come out to do a series of tests once we are ready for them.

Mass DEP Gap II Grant

Mr. Orcutt said we were awarded an \$83,295 grant from the Massachusetts DEP and presented the award notice issued by the DEP.

Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt reported that precipitation was up for the month of April and well levels remain consistent. He also mentioned that Lost Lake had been filled.

Baddacook Pond

Mr. Orcutt said we received bids from Solitude Lake Management and a new company called S.E.S. who was cheaper by about \$10,000.00. Mr. Fishbone asked if it would be problematic to bring in a new company that isn't familiar with the lake and what has been done so far. Mr. Orcutt said that they would need to be trained on that information. With two companies bidding the pricing may now be more competitive.

Consumer Confidence Report for 2017

Mr. Orcutt said that the Consumer Confidence Report will be sent to Northern Data tomorrow and will be mailed out soon to customers.

Rocky Hill – Storage Tank Site

Mr. Orcutt presented a map of the Rocky Hill Storage Tank Site that Origis Energy inquired about leasing for a solar panel farm. Mr. Orcutt wants to invite Origis Energy to our next meeting and is

concerned about the length of the lease and would prefer looking at a 25 year lease rather than a 50 year lease. Mr. Gmeiner suggested that we find out what the maximum lease could be. Mr. Gmeiner asked what kind of water tower would go here and Mr. Orcutt explained that it would be a sphere shaped tower. Mr. Fishbone asked if the solar energy farm lease would completely prevent us from building a water storage tank and Mr. Orcutt thinks so because there is not enough land for both. Mr. Orcutt wants to talk to David Moulton and Dennis Lacombe to make sure they wouldn't have any issues with a lease of the property.

Rocky Hill – Hummingbird Lane Connection Fees

Mr. Orcutt presented a letter from Bob Collins regarding pre-paid 1' water connection fees from David Moulton for a development at "Rocky Hill" / Hummingbird Lane. Mr. Collins requested that the connection fee remain the same for these units that were prepaid at a rate of \$3750.00 per unit. This year, the 1" water connection fee was increased to \$4250.00. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Gmeiner remember that they accepted the prepayment from Mr. Moulton on the terms that any increase in connection fee would need to be paid. Mr. Fishbone wanted to clarify that we did not ask for this prepayment and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that we did not ask for it and only offered to accept the prepayment to assist Mr. Moulton with a tax advantage. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion that we charge the current water service connection fees for any hookups, crediting what has already been paid, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said that flushing is almost done and there are just a few dead ends to finish up.

Mr. Orcutt scheduled the divers to come on May 14th for Well Cleaning. Mr. Gmeiner asked if this will help with the iron in the water and Mr. Orcutt explained that chlorine does a good job of knocking iron to the bottom which the divers can then vacuum out. Mr. Orcutt said that we have not had a raw water iron hit for four months.

Mr. Orcutt said that another fire flow test was done at Indian Hill and they are installing a fire pump. The water main will be put in mid-July and Mr. Orcutt asked them to pay the water connection fees prior to installing.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if anything new is happening at the new Shardi Temple and Mr. Orcutt said he hasn't heard much but they will have three hydrants and fire lines which we need to make sure to bill for.

Mr. Gmeiner asked how the new technician is doing and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that things are going well and he will probably be able to be on call early next fiscal year.

Mr. Orcutt said that there are some maintenance items that are being deferred to July including a few hydrants and some sewer caps. Mr. Fishbone asked if the hydrants are leaking and Mr. Orcutt explained how they can freeze and break if the drain does not work properly. Mr. Orcutt also wants to buy or rent a gate box cleaner to use later this year.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3rd, 2018 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 23 were signed.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager