

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, July 10th, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> 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 7:34pm.

Whitney Pond Well Construction

Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney Well I is being used and is keeping up with demand. It is working for about 15-18 hours per day. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the state will be concerned about how much water we are pumping and Mr. Orcutt said not until we reach the one million gallon mark. Mr. Orcutt explained that there was an issue with the hard drive because it was the first of its kind, but it was under warranty and will be replaced. He also explained that there was an issue with overheating as the AC at the well was not sufficient to keep the system cool on the days with very high temperatures. Once this was discovered, an additional AC was borrowed from the town manager and the department has ordered their own additional AC which should solve the problem. Mr. Gmeiner was concerned the engineers didn't prepare the system with adequate AC to prevent this issue, and Mr. Orcutt said they may not have anticipated the hard drive overheating. Mr. Orcutt had requested the DEP to visit and inspect the well upgrades but has put it on hold until the hard drive issue is resolved. The payment is ready to process but he will hold onto it until we are certain that the problem is fixed.

Mass DEP Gap II Grant

Mr. Orcutt said that the funds came through and Mr. Haddad signed off on the grant.

Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt presented the water levels and noted that Whitney Well I levels have gone up about two feet which is probably due to snow melt etc. The levels have remained constant even with all of the additional pumping due to irrigation. Mr. Fishbone asked why Whitney Well I showed an increase but Whitney Well II does not and Mr. Orcutt believed Whitney Well II may not be as deep.

Baddacook Pond

Mr. Orcutt said that the new company has begun weed harvesting and will start hydro raking in August. Mr. Gmeiner asked if someone talked to Mr. Luening about the water department's discussion regarding contributing funds and Mr. Orcutt said that he talked to him and explained that we would discuss contributing \$10,000.00 later on this fiscal year.

## Rocky Hill – Storage Tank Site

Nothing new to report.

## Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner asked if we avoided the electric peaks and Mr. Orcutt believes we did since we have not heard otherwise.

Mr. Orcutt said the Fall Town Meeting warrant is now open and will be closing on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mr. Gmeiner recommended that we submit an article for an Enterprise Fund transfer and determine the amount of the transfer later on.

Mr. Gmeiner said he saw an email from Groton resident, Jim Greir, regarding testing of PFAs in our water system. Mr. Orcutt said that we are not required to test for them but some other more industrial towns may need to test for them. Mr. Orcutt said our wells are isolated so it is not a current concern.

Mr. Orcutt said that the rate study should be completed soon and Mr. Fishbone asked what the outcome will be. The company is doing a rate analysis to help us determine what our rates should be in order to reach an adequate income to support our operations and any future projects.

Mrs. Crory reviewed year end financials and provided an estimated amount to be returned to our enterprise fund. In general, the water department exceeded our expenses mainly due to a new hire and new meters. However, we exceeded our income goals which helped offset our extra spending.

Mrs. Crory was asked to look into our previously increased rates to see how they have impacted our income over the past few years. In general, income has gone up due to rate increases, even though annual gallons pumped have fluctuated.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, and Mr. Fishbone seconded subject to review by Mr. McCaffrey.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 2 were signed.

Mrs. Crory left the meeting.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 8:30, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager