

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, October 16th, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunch Room

**Minutes**

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

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:35pm.

Staffing Plans

Mr. Orcutt told the board they have selected a candidate out of ten applicants. Mr. McCaffrey asked for a quick background on the applicants. Mr. Orcutt reviewed each and acknowledged that we got more applicants than expected, but only about two really met our standards and needed minimal training time. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there would be a problem hiring someone with more experience than Mr. Knox and Mr. Orcutt said in some cases there could be an issue, but Mr. Knox is so bright that he could be equivalent to a coworker with more years of experience.

Mr. Orcutt said the chosen candidate is Michael MacEachern who currently works for the Townsend Water Department and has about 20 years of experience. He is also on the board of water commissioners in Townsend. Mr. Knox was not involved in the interview process, but knows the candidate from town and they are former classmates. Mr. Gmeiner asked what he did before working in water operations and Mr. Orcutt was not sure. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we required an associate's degree and if he had one and Mr. Orcutt explained that experience substitutes the associate's degree requirement. Mr. Orcutt explained that he has the licenses we want and can work towards his cross connection license to assist Mr. Knox with backflow testing. Mr. Orcutt said that Mr. MacEachern would start at a rate of \$27.00/hour. Given the age range of Mr. Knox and this new hire, Mr. McCaffrey pointed out that the board would need to look into hiring an operator who would provide more longevity and could take over once Mr. Knox and Mr. MacEachern retired. Mr. Orcutt agreed and said that he is going to try to visit with Nashoba Technical High School to discuss any potential for a program for water operators. Mr. Orcutt wants to give the Townsend Water Superintendent adequate time to find a replacement so the start date may be delayed. Mr. McCaffrey asked if they work with a Scada system in Townsend and Mr. Orcutt said they do.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the hiring of Michael MacEachern as Senior Water Technician I starting at a rate of \$27.00/hour, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

### Other Business

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Mr. Fishbone approved, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt said they ran both Whitney Wells three days prior to flushing. They ran both wells down and pumped back up which took about 13 hours to fill. Both wells dropped to 3.5 feet and stabilized. They peaked at 710 gallons per minute combined. Mr. McCaffrey asked if this was at 95% or 100% and Mr. Orcutt thinks closer to 92%. Mr. McCaffrey believes the pipes are sized good for the wells based on this information. Mr. Orcutt said they could run another test and increase gallons per minute by about 25 gallons to get a more accurate maximum. Mr. Fishbone pointed out that the maximum will vary based on a wet or dry year. Mr. McCaffrey would like to try the second test in the spring and thinks it would be a good idea to have an estimated maximum to report when it's time to propose Shattuck Well upgrades.

Mr. Fishbone asked how things went at Baddacook Pond this season. Mr. Orcutt said as of September 15<sup>th</sup> they had to abide by a 50 foot restriction for weed harvesting so lost about 3 weeks by changing equipment from weed harvesting to hydroraking. Mr. Fishbone asked if they completed sufficient acreage and Mr. Orcutt said the tonnage was what they hoped for. Mr. Orcutt projects this to be a four year project because they will probably have the funding. Mr. Gmeiner asked if they will need to go to CPC again and Mr. Orcutt said no because each time they went was for 2 years. Mr. Orcutt expects to have another meeting with Baddacook residents in November.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 9 were signed.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager