



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: April 17th, 2019

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall/Second Floor

Members Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Others Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager and Amy Collette

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 P.M.

205 Main Street Abatement

Ms. Collette came before the BOSC requesting an abatement on her recent sewer bill that she was billed for 42 sewer units. Ms. Collette told the BOSC that there was a heating pipe that burst at 205 Main Street and flowed for five days before they knew it happened. She explained that none of this water went directly into the sewer and that it had gone through the floor boards and into the basement. Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Crory what an average sewer bill was for 205 Main Street and she replied 2 units. The BOSC was in agreement to abate 40 sewer units for 205 Main Street.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate 40 sewer units for a total of \$531.62 for 205 Main Street and Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Rate Hearing/Usage Fee Regulations & Wastewater Systems Cost Continued

Mr. Gmeiner suggested we change Chapter 396 and that some parts need to be rewritten. Mr. Gmeiner stated that if expanding the district now we get a PPA Fee of \$6,500.00/per dwelling unit and if it's a non-residential property the PPA is based on an initial fee which will be adjusted based on water flows after one full year of occupancy and billing or one year of previous water usage, if known. Mr. Gmeiner feels the BOSC needs to work on adjusting the regulations and use something equivalent to a residential unit (ERU) like Four Corners.

Mr. Gmeiner said that as of now if there is an In District change of use and the PPA has already been paid the only fee they are charged is a capacity charge of \$6.58/gallon. Example adding a bedroom would be $110 \times \$6.58 = \723.80 . Mr. Gmeiner stated that the Four Corners calculation is based on 330/GPD (3-Bedroom minimum), so if a two bedroom was paid up and wanted to add a third bedroom, they would

not have to pay because of the 330/GPD minimum. If they were to add a fourth bedroom, they would be required to pay 1/3 of the minimum charge. The BOSC made a graph with some comparisons using the current PPA and capacity fee for a new building, add a bedroom, change of use and a district expansion. The fees were compared as asking GPD, connection fee, capacity fee and the total, they then compared these examples to the way the Four Corners District fees are set up.

Pepperell MA

Mr. Gmeiner asked if anyone has heard anything new on the Pepperell IMA and Mr. Orcutt replied No.

Mandatory Sewer Connection Bylaw

Mr. Orcutt presented a spreadsheet to the BOSC showing the sewer capacity charges/assessment for the new connections at Four Corners. Mr. Gmeiner asked if this spreadsheet was done in comparison to the one Mr. Rafferty did and Mr. Orcutt replied somewhat. Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC once the connection letters are sent out, we should all be on the same page. Mr. Bouchard asked who will the letters go out to? Mr. Gmeiner replied to the Four Corners businesses and they will have until January 8th to connect. Mr. Orcutt asked if we should send out the bylaws for Four Corners with the letters and Mr. Gmeiner replied yes. Mr. Gmeiner asked that the letters be prepared and sent out as soon as possible.

Sewer District Expansion Guidelines

The BOSC reviewed the Sewer District Expansion Guidelines that were edited by Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Gmeiner. Mr. Gmeiner suggested that we reword the heading and change to Policy and Guidelines. The BOSC made some additional wording edits to the Sewer District Expansion Policy and Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Bouchard to fine tune it and email a final copy to the BOSC.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the new Sewer Extension Policy and Guidelines to Extend the Sewer District as amended Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

GDRHS - Pumps

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt for the status on the GDRHS pumps and Mr. Orcutt replied that they had an issue with the manhole cover so it will not be done over April vacation.

Next Meeting

May 1st, 2019

Bills Signed

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for FY19 Expense Warrant (EW-22)

Minutes

No minutes were approved at this meeting

ADJOURN –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 4:05 P.M., Mr. Bouchard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant

APPROVED:
