

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, May 26th, 2020  
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Office Assistant Ann Livezey, and Michael Ohl of CEI.

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

Manganese – Schedule, Piloting, Concept Plan, Finances, Consent Order

Mr. Ohl said the pilot testing went well. They looked at what could be pushed through the current Baddacook filters as well as new filtration. They looked at the impact of filter sizing, backwash issues, historical water demands and more. Mr. Ohl said they looked at the number of filters needed, the size of the filters, as well as position (horizontal versus vertical) at both locations. Mr. McCaffrey wants to know the additional square footage needed for the filters at each location.

They looked at the scenario of piping Whitney Pond water to Baddacook to see if the current Baddacook treatment system could withstand the capacity. The data looked good except for a chance that high summer pumping could exceed capacity. Maxing out the filters also will result in more backwashes. It could be possible to only pump one Whitney at a time to Baddacook. Mr. McCaffrey summarized that 9 months out of the year look great but we could face a problem in the summer. He also said this shows why we may need \$3 million right now, because we could pipe to Baddacook soon and have the manganese levels below spec 9 months out of the year. Mr. Fishbone suggested we could notify families with children under the age of 1 when we were not able to send all water to Baddacook to be treated.

Mr. Ohl reviewed a site plan and showed the Baddacook lagoon is currently dark but should be clear if working properly. Mr. Fishbone asked if there is room for PFAS treatment, if needed, and Mr. Ohl said yes. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the pilot results will include PFAS treatment information and Mr. Ohl said it will have a footprint and details. Mr. Ohl presented a site plan for Whitney Well which shows more space and a separate / new treatment plan. It would cost more to integrate with the current building. Mr. Fishbone asked if there would be room to drill for Whitney Well #3 down the road and Mr. Ohl said that they would need to look at that separately.

Mr. Ohl said that he will have updated cost estimates and details for the next meeting.

#### 73 Chestnut Hill Rd – Deed Restriction

Mr. Orcutt said 4-5 years ago the owner wanted water to her garage. It was approved with a deed restriction stating it was water only and could not be used to create an additional living space. The property is now for sale and the garage has a bed, shower, stove, and appears to be a living space. The board could require her to pay for the water service connection fee and install a second meter, discontinue water service to the garage, or not do anything. Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to send a letter with two options, to pay for the second connection or to disconnect the water service. Mr. Orcutt will prepare and send to owner and will let the realtor know.

#### 2” Water Main Extension – Skinner Lane (350 feet +/-)

Mr. Orcutt said a 2” water main extension will be made which can potentially service 3 homes, it will be about 375 feet, and will have one hydrant. This will bring it to the end of Skinner Lane. Mr. Fishbone made a motion to approve the Skinner Lane water main extension as described, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

#### 6” Water Main Extension – Redskin Trail (350 feet +/-)

Mr. Orcutt said there are three potential hook ups and this extension will create another license agreement. There will be one hydrant. Mr. Orcutt said there is a chance it will need to be extended further at a later time. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the Redskin Trail water main extension as described, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget Review & Year End Projections

Mrs. Crory reviewed the current financials which are still in good shape, and requested the board transfer funds from general expenses to salaries to cover the rest of the year. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer \$5,000 from general expenses to salaries, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### Fiscal Year 2021 Operating Budget – Continue Spending Freeze?

Mr. Orcutt said the he is working with Mrs. Crory on the 1/12 budget for FY2021 and we will submit it to the town soon.

#### Superintendent’s Report: Well Cleaning, Water Levels and Pumping, Staffing

Mr. Orcutt said during the bad storm last week we had to go on generators and there were trees down. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we could create a write up about the Water Department’s efforts during the storm.

Mr. Orcutt said that pumping has increased as people are irrigating There is no longer water going over the dam on Lost Lake which means the ground is drying out.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. McCaffrey wants to make sure to include Select Board Member Mr. Degan on upcoming manganese plans as he is the department's liaison.

Mr. Gmeiner approved the minutes of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:18pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory