

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, August 11th, 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. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

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

Mr. Ohl spoke with DEP about the Pilot Study and they requested more information on certain areas, which will be covered in the concept report. He will also send a letter addressing their concerns so that we can get the Pilot Study approval done. Mr. Ohl discussed how we could invest now to prepare for future expansion at Whitney Well. The extra cost would be about \$1million to prepare for extra pumping at Whitney Well. The details of this expansion will be discussed at our next meeting and will be included in the Conceptual Design Report for DEP. Mr. McCaffrey said that having a third well should be able to help water bans and allow for more pumping and more revenue. Mr. Orcutt agreed and said we would need to get a permit for a third well. Mr. McCaffrey asked what the return on investment would be for a third well. How much additional water could be pumped? How much additional revenue would be brought in? Mr. Fishbone asked if there would be any environmental impact of a third well and Mr. Orcutt said that DEP would look at that before issuing a permit.

Mr. Orcutt said he submitted a placeholder fall town meeting article to transfer funds out of our reserves. We will transfer out manganese fee income from FY20, as well as any funds needed for the Whitney Well expansion. It may be one or two articles depending on what the Town Manager would like to do. The numbers will need to be finalized by the time they go to print.

Mr. McCaffrey asked where we stand with backwashes. Mr. Ohl said that DEP is still concerned with the handling of backwashes at the Baddacook Well. Mr. Orcutt said that DEP may come visit the site. Mr. McCaffrey asked if this is being considered as part of the ACO and Mr. Ohl said no, but it will be a part of the construction contract. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Mr. Orcutt talked to Tom Weaver about his backwash proposal and Mr. Orcutt did get preliminary numbers and doesn't think it is going to be cost effective.

Mr. Orcutt said the Design & Construction phase is expensive and he plans to get costs from both CEI and Wright Pierce. We will need a spring town meeting transfer for Design & Construction oversite costs. We will also need to prepare a Scope & Fee Proposal to submit to

each engineering firm. Mr. Fishbone agrees that we should get costs from both firms and recalls that they each had strengths and weaknesses. Mr. Orcutt will find out if it is a closed bid.

Mr. McCaffrey would like to see the next ACO milestone on future meeting agendas.

Superintendent's Report: Water Levels and Pumping

Mr. Orcutt said we are still in a moderate drought. Well levels remain the same and we are pumping about 8-12 hours per day. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we are penalizing anyone not following the ban and Mr. Orcutt said not right now. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we want to discuss allowing one day a week and Mr. Orcutt wouldn't look at that until at least the next meeting because it is still too hot. That may be beneficial once the temperature drops. Mr. McCaffrey asked if he can bring a proposal of one day a week watering for the next meeting that we can review at the end of August or early September. Mr. Gmeiner agrees that one day a week now would be too premature.

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mr. Orcutt to check on the new GELD rates. Mr. Orcutt does not think it will affect us but will check.

Manganese Open Forum

Mr. Orcutt would like to put the Manganese Open Forum on hold until September. Mr. Gmeiner thinks we should start outlining this next meeting.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. Gmeiner approved the minutes of June 30th, 2020 as written, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory