



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: September 23rd, 2020

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

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

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager
And Kevin Lindemer/227 Boston Road

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

227 Boston Road

Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Lindemer that we received plans from Mr. Dillis and comments from Mr. Rafferty. He told Mr. Lindemer that most of the comments were technical things that needed to be changed and he suggested Mr. Lindemer have his engineer take a look. Mr. Orcutt said there is a technical permit concern that the drawing shows the sewer going straight down 119 and the Mass Dot will want it going down the side or the edge of the road to avoid digging up the concrete. Mr. Gmeiner said that is a big point and that if they were to go along the edge there would be room. Mr. Lindemer told the BOSC that they can go diagonal near the house toward Johnson's, we would just need to dig a hole and connect at Johnsons. Mr. Lindemer also said that Mr. Haddad would grant an easement if we went under the golf course. Mr. Lindemer told the BOSC that Mr. Dillis said it would not be an issue going down 119 and Mr. Gmeiner replied that the reason being is there is a big chunk cement down the highway. Mr. Orcutt said due to the concrete in the middle of the highway, if there was a failure you would have to shut down 119 to get to it.

Mr. Lindemer told the BOSC that the initial plan was to turn the barn into a wedding venue and with zoning and some resistance to that idea he is now considering 2-3 condo units. Mr. Lindemer said they would need something that would generate income and asked the BOSC if this would work and said when he did the math it seemed to work. Mr. Lindemer said he was told that if he turned the barn into 2 condo units, he would not have to go back to Town Meeting, but if he were to do 3, he would. Mr. Lindemer said the new connection fees made this decision. Mr. Gmeiner said the pipe size should be sufficient and asked Mr. Lindemer if it was 2" now. Mr. Gmeiner asked if he was thinking 3 units, how many beds would there be. Mr. Lindemer replied if 2 units maybe 3-beds each and if we do 3 maybe 2 beds each. Mr. Lindemer said the peak flow for a venue would be bigger than 3 residential units and they would like to keep the same look of the barn. Mr. Gmeiner asked about the new proposed house and how many beds would that be and Mr. Lindemer replied 4-beds. Mr. Gmeiner said he wanted to see if the pipe was big enough, but if it was sized for a wedding, he feels it would be fine. Mr. Gmeiner stated capacity should not be an issue as long

as Mr. Lindemer did not wait three years. Mr. Lindemer told the BOSC he is hoping to get the sewer in this fall. Mr. Orcutt asked if this had to go back to Town Meeting because we proposed a function hall and two houses. Mr. Gmeiner said he would have to review the article and Mr. Lindemer said the article did not specify. Mr. Gmeiner recalls a discussion with Town Counsel on limiting use and asked that the minutes be checked.

Mr. Lindemer said the fall 2018 article said to extend his property and does not say number of gallons. Mr. Lindemer said they were looking at 100-120 wedding venue and peak flow was well of what the house is. He said he was thinking two condos and if pipe can handle it maybe three. Mr. Lindemer said he is thinking 18 beds in total and Mr. Gmeiner said they would review with the engineer. Mr. Lindemer told the BOSC that Con Com wanted him to go thru the golf course and he was hoping to stay away from 119. Mr. Gmeiner said that would be fine if he wanted to go thru country club, but would need the Select Board to grant an easement. Mr. Lindemer asked if he would need to come back before the BOSC and Mr. Gmeiner said he does not think it would be necessary and Mr. Bouchard agreed. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to send out the new plan to Mr. Rafferty for review.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve the plans as submitted and send off to the State, Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll call: Gmeiner- Aye, Bouchard-Aye and Orcutt-Aye

15 Longley Road

The BOSC received a sewer abatement request from Mr. Barisano who is a new resident and did some outdoor watering his vegetable garden and was unaware a separate meter was required for outdoor watering. Mr. Orcutt said the normal average use is between 10-15 units/qtr. and he was billed for 48 units. Mr. Barisano stated on his application, he has been in contact with the office and is planning on having a second meter installed to avoid this in the future.

The BOSC was in agreement for a one-time abatement of 33 sewer units of the 48 in which he was billed. Mr. Gmeiner stated the amount of the abatement should be \$592.39 less an administrative fee of \$75.00.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to abate 33 sewer units at \$592.39 less the \$75.00 administrative fee and Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll call: Gmeiner- Aye, Bouchard-Aye and Orcutt-Aye

192 Hollis Street

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that Mr. Spicer has applied for a second abatement due to the issue being carried over to his June billing cycle. Mr. Spicer called on June 15th and the technicians went over on the 17th and in those few weeks he used 35 units and he normally uses around 5 units. Ms. Crory said she based the abatement on 30 units for a total of \$379.50 because he was billed for 54 units. Ms. Crory told the BOSC that Mr. Spicer paid the administrative fee of \$75.00 on the 1st abatement in July. Mr. Bouchard asked her to confirm that we did in fact charge once already and this was for the same issue. Ms. Crory replied "yes" and Mr. Gmeiner said the fact he corrected the issue was important.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to abate 30 sewer units at \$379.50 and waive the administrative fee because the issue has been resolved and the homeowner paid the administrative fee of \$75.00 on the first abatement, Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call: Orcutt-Aye, Gmeiner - Aye and Bouchard - Aye

436 Main Street

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that he spoke to Mr. Lagasse and his driller cannot get a hazardous waste certificate and Mr. Gmeiner suggested Mr. Orcutt reach out to Mr. Rafferty.

Four Corners Sewer Regulations

The BOSC continued reviewing the Four Corner Sewer Regulations and made some changes to Appendix "A". Mr. Bouchard said he incorporated the Regulations for Sewer Design and Construction to reference Pepperell Massachusetts. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Bouchard to do a final draft to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Discuss Developing a Policy Regarding Abatements

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that he feels a letter should be sent out to all residents to inform them to have a 2nd meter installed for outdoor water use, to avoid these types of abatements. Mr. Gmeiner also asked that guidelines for abatement requests be made.

Other Business:

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that last time this year we collected \$185K in revenue and this year we are at \$145K. She did tell the BOSC that no Misc. funds have come in yet, but if Mr. Lindemer was to move forward that would generate \$36K. She also told the BOSC that general expenses are under and Mr. Gmeiner asked that she keep a close eye on the budget. Ms. Crory did say there is a reserve fund of \$542K, she reviewed with Ms. Dufresne and the encumbered funds were not included in the estimated amount. Ms. Crory said the Four Corners stayed about the same and though it shows we made some money; we have a built-in reserve of \$16K.

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt if he would cover the transfers for the town meeting and Mr. Orcutt replied "yes", one article for water and two for sewer. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we received payment from Shaw's for the connection. Mr. Orcutt replied that it has been billed out, but no payment received yet. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to remind them to send payment before the work starts.

Next Meeting – October 7th, 2020

BILLS SIGNED - No bills were signed at this meeting

MINUTES: - August 5th, 2020, August 19th, 2020 and August 26th, 2020 were approved as amended

ADJOURN – *Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:45PM, Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Bouchard – Aye and Orcutt - Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant