

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, November 9th, 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. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:34pm.

Manganese – Concept Plan, Finances, Consent Order, Milestones -#2, Select Board overview, OPM reviews

The Board discussed the meeting with the Select Board regarding manganese treatment and they believe it went well, and Mr. Fishbone thought they appreciated the level of communication.

Mr. Orcutt will send out the OPM packets for the Board to review and they should plan to narrow down to three firms at the next meeting on November 17th.

Mr. McCaffrey asked when the next manganese samples will be taken now that water main flushing is completed and Mr. Orcutt said next week, and he will email the Board the results.

Whitney Well – Expansion and Capacity Update

Mr. Orcutt met with an adjacent land owner near Whitney Well to discuss the possibility of accessing some of the wetlands and the owner seemed open to the idea. Mr. Gmeiner said we would probably need to get Town Meeting approval.

Mr. Ohl said the driller should be starting in December.

Longley Road Project Update

Mr. Ohl gave Mr. Orcutt a Scope & Fee Proposal (\$1000.00) for the Longley Road project. This will include modeling the flow tests that the developer's engineer is basing their designs off of and making sure their plans look correct. Mr. Orcutt added that they will also look at any improvements to the system.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to authorize Mr. Orcutt to hire CEI to review the plans for Longley Rd, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ohl added that he will be working for and billing the Water Department and then the Water Department can seek reimbursement from other parties if necessary.

FY 2022 Budget – Review 1st Draft

Mr. Orcutt said the wages and salaries are level funded due to the Town Manager's request. There is no change to debt currently but may be updated depending on borrowing for the Manganese Project design work or for the Whitney Well expansion. Mr. McCaffrey asked why the intergovernmental charge is higher and Mr. Orcutt said that 10% was added because insurance rates are not in yet. Mr. McCaffrey asked about our meter budget of \$50,000 and would like to know how many years it will take to replace remaining older meters at that budget amount. Mrs. Crory estimated about 4-5 years.

Superintendent's Report: Water Levels and Pumping, Summer Water Conservation Program & Current Restrictions and Conditions, Fall Flushing Program

Mr. Orcutt said that Water Main Flushing is completed and wasn't very bad. We are seeing a slight increase in well levels. The State lowered the drought warning level. The technicians replaced the crushed stone at the Baddacook Lagoon and the vaults will be vacuumed out. DEP will be conducting their Sanitary Survey next week. Mr. Fishbone asked if we should expect any issues and Mr. Orcutt said they may ask about the Baddacook Lagoons but it looked good when they changed out stone and there was not seepage underneath. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we could use any other medium besides crushed stone like crushed glass from the transfer station and Mr. Orcutt said that is too fine, but we can recycle our old stone to DPW. When the stone dries, the iron and manganese blow out of it.

Manganese Open Forum: continuation of discussion

Mr. Fishbone is hoping that the community outreach will help us be more proactive with customers but does feel they are well informed at this point. Mr. Orcutt will ask the Groton Herald why there was no article this week.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of October 27th, 2020 as amended, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt said the next meeting will be on November 12th and will be for the final FY22 Budget review and OPM discussion. We will have a rate hearing after Thanksgiving and will look at 5% and 10% increases on all tiers except Domestic Tier 1, a capital charge for Irrigation accounts, and a 15% irrigation increase.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:24pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory