

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, January 26, 2021
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Michael Ohl of CEI.

Members of the Village at Shepley Hill joined the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

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

Baddacook Pond Weed Harvesting Project:

The Board received the final report from Jim Luening and had no questions. The Water Superintendent reiterated to the Board that the \$10,000.00 contribution from the GWD was a long-term commitment as long as the Town also contributed funds to the weed harvesting efforts. The Water Superintendent also confirmed his commitment to setting up all of the procurement requirements for the project for the Fiscal Year starting July 1st, 2021. Finally, the Water Superintendent cautioned the Board about spending not only this fiscal year but also next fiscal year. Funds during the pandemic we are experiencing could be difficult. The Water Superintendent requested that any approval of funding from the GWD wait until we get closer to the end of this fiscal year to be sure we were not entering FY22 in a deficit. Mr. Orcutt will convey this to Jim Luening.

Bob Anderson, who is the project manager for the Duck Pond Restoration Project, has requested the BOWC's submit a letter of support on his behalf. The Water Superintendent shall submit a letter of support to Bob Anderson and his CPC Project.

Manganese Treatment Facility:

The Water Superintendent updated the Board on where the Whitney Treatment project stands today and the current schedule. The next steps are to prepare a budget for the Spring Town Meeting articles. A place holder article has been submitted. The Water Superintendent will need to obtain a Scope and Fee Proposal from CEI for the Board to review as well as our OPM, Bob Rafferty of Environmental Partners. The water superintendent will give the Board a revised workflow schedule once the Scope and Fee has been received and reviewed by the Board. The revised workflow schedule will now incorporate design milestones needed to meet the August deadline for the Board for final review prior to submission to DEP-CERO.

Whitney Pond Well #3:

The Water Superintendent and Mike Ohl updated the Board on the test well work at the Whitney Pond Well Site. The well drillers started today, Tuesday, January 26, 2021 and should be here all week and hopefully wrap up phase #1 of the drilling efforts. Proposed well site #1 only went to a depth of 35 feet on 2 attempts. There is limited water quality testing to be done at 1st phase. The location will be moved 10 to 15 feet and re-drilled. Mike Ohl will be submitting a Design Scope and Fee proposal for review and a workflow schedule will be developed.

Fiscal Year 2021 6-Month Budget Review:

Water Superintendent presented the 6-month budget review provided by the Business Manager. One note was that debt normally paid in July was not recorded on the report. The Water Superintendent will have this corrected. The Water Superintendent is cautiously optimistic that we are on an acceptable path to close out the budget with a positive cash balance to reserves. The Chairman of the Board shares this opinion. The recent water rate increase will not be fully implemented until April 1st, so we will only see a slight increase for one quarter or two months. The Water Superintendent listed a number of maintenance projects that total about \$60,000.00 to be completed over the next five or six months. It is anticipated that these projects should not require any transfer of funds at the Spring Town Meeting for the FY21 Operating Budget.

Superintendent's Report: Water Levels and Pumping, Water Conservation Program

Water Level graphics were sent to the Board earlier this week. Lack of precipitation and snow fall to date does not look promising for the aquifer. February is typically a big snow month, so we need to wait and see. January did see some good rain events, but there was very little improvements to the water levels.

Village at Shepley Hills / Longley Road Project Update

The Water Superintendent updated the Board on where the project stands with regards to minimum fire flows and minimum pressures in the system and for the project. The project proponent has established a baseline dollar amount of \$825,000.00 for the Longley Road water mains and no funds for the required Hollis Street upgrades. The Applicant is also requesting a waiver of fees although no formal written request has been received. Mike Ohl then discussed the minimum fire flows required for the project as established by the Fire Chief and the minimum pressures required for the project site and distribution system at 20 PSI under worst case conditions. The model took into account all of the required factors when preparing the model where the applicant's consultant did not (such as tank levels, wells running and fire events). The hydraulic model indicates that an improvement on Hollis Street needs to be made in order for the project to be connected to Town Water. The applicant has reiterated that they have \$825,000.00 available for the off-site improvements and the Hollis Street project needs to fit into this budget. The Water Superintendent and the Mike Ohl will look at other options and re-review the hydraulic model. The Chairman reviewed the revenue stream realized for the water sales at approximately \$10K per year and one-time connection fees totaling \$110K to \$118K range. There was a brief discussion with the

Development Team regarding PFAS. The Water Superintendent will send the Developer an Application and Chapter 407 and the applicable section regarding waiving fees.

Manganese Open Forum: continuation of discussion

Tom will reach out to the local cable department to set something up.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

There were no minutes to approve at this meeting

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:45pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas D. Orcutt

Water Superintendent