

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 28th, 2021
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member Jim Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Bob Rafferty and Dave Patangia from Environmental Partners, and Michael Ohl from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, revised schedule

Mr. Patangia said they are continuing to work on the 100% design of the treatment plant, they met with the fire department, provided additional materials to the Planning Board, the Architect is working on the building, the tight tank hearing is scheduled for next Monday, the group that reviews the tight tank application gave initial comments and they will respond. They submitted 75% drawings to MA DEP as a courtesy. Mr. Orcutt said there are a few loose ends to tie up, site issues, and Mr. Patangia will start to give him some of the specifications as they are done. Mr. Gmeiner asked what issues will be discussed with the tight tank and Mr. Rafferty said they had questions about the leach field. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the color is picked out and Mr. Patangia said it is light grey with white trim. Mr. McCaffrey wants to get a picture in the newspaper and Mr. Orcutt said the one going in the paper is green and they will have updated color photo in grey for Town Meeting.

Whitney Pond Well #3 – progress update, schedule

Mr. Ohl said the hydrogeologist is busy with the ground water flow model and they are finalizing the pump station design and the Water Management Act part of the permit. Those pieces should be completed by mid-October and will have clarification on the pump flow rate. Work onsite has begun to prepare for the shed to be built. Nashoba Tech plans to submit a building permit application to go through the process. Mr. Ohl said the water quality lab data is back. The pH and alkalinity are a little lower than Whitney Well I and II so the new plant will have the ability to adjust the pH as needed. The manganese levels continue to be low. The PFAS levels came up at 8 parts per trillion and DEP doesn't like to see above 10 ppt. Mr. McCaffrey asked what DEP would respond to that and Mr. Ohl said they may ask if there are any known sources nearby. Mr. Orcutt asked if there could be any cross-contamination from the driller sand Mr. Ohl said it doesn't take much to affect a sample when dealing with ppt. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we will need to sample PFAS again and Mr. Ohl said once the final well is in. Mr. Orcutt said he will probably need to do quarterly testing starting in June when the well is online. Mr. Patangia said another town was required to have stubs for PFAS treatment so DEP may request this after

reviewing the 100% design. Mr. McCaffrey asked what the lowest level is for the towns that are installing a PFAS treatment and Mr. Patangia said most are in excess of 20 ppt. Mr. Orcutt said previous samples were 0 ppt and 2 ppt so blended with Whitney Well III we should still be under 5ppt. Mr. Orcutt thinks we would need to monitor Whitney Well III separately but may not need to treat it if the blended sample looks good. Mr. Gmeiner asked about if unregulated PFAS were tested at Whitney Well I and II and Mr. Orcutt said all compounds were tested. Mr. McCaffrey said Baddacook Well was the highest at about 5 ppt. Mr. Fishbone asked if the unregulated are concerning and asked what we can do with that extra data and Mr. Orcutt said he believes they were all non-detect. Mr. Gmeiner said we did have hits on two of them and could be markers although not regulated. Mr. Ohl will be done with the modeling in mid-October and will have complete package by the end of the month. Mr. Rafferty asked what we need for Town Meeting and Mr. Orcutt said the architectural rendering and maybe a schedule or milestones.

Mr. McCaffrey asked what happens if we get poor bids and Mr. Orcutt said if we will need to go to Town Meeting for more money or re-bid. Misters Rafferty, Patangia, and Ohl left the meeting.

Dunstable Water Operations

Mr. Orcutt will be meeting with Dunstable with Mr. Knox on Thursday. He said it is probably possible to take on but the staff feels another operator would be required so the fee would need to cover that. The existing staff will be busy with the new Treatment Plant. There are upfront costs to us such as salary, benefits, vehicle. Mr. McCaffrey thinks there would need to be one Board with Groton and Dunstable members. Mr. Fishbone said yes it would need to be a district Board or something. Mr. Orcutt also asked what kind of profit are we trying to gain to make it worth our while. Mr. Gmeiner would want to see a cash flow before taking it on. Mr. Orcutt would need Mr. Haddad to help with how this would look administratively.

Other Business: budget, bills, minutes, meeting schedule

Mr. Orcutt said there will be an article in the Herald this week. Mr. Orcutt nominated the entire department and we received the Community Award from Mass Waterworks for Outstanding Service. He would like to entire Board and Staff to go to the award ceremony/dinner for \$50 a head and would like permission to buy the tickets. The Board agreed. Mr. Orcutt nominated our department as an outstanding staff while people were out of the office etc. Mr. McCaffrey asked if it means best in the state and Mr. Orcutt said it did. Mr. Orcutt would also like everyone to present the award at the Selectboard meeting.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if water receipts are decent after the wet summer and Mr. Orcutt said we aren't that far off in terms of pumpage. We had a decent May and very strong June which is carrying us.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory