

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, January 11th, 2022
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

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

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

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Patangia said the Treatment plant is out to bid and there was a pre-bid meeting last Thursday and they were happy with the turnout. There have been 176 plan takers and 13 general contractors. Addendum #1 was sent out answering a few questions from contractors but there were no big issues but more in-depth questions will come as we move along. Mr. Orcutt would like to see a copy of the Addendum. Sub-bids are due January 28th and general bids are due February 15th. Mr. Orcutt said some of the 13 general contractors are not builders and Mr. Patangia said they may sub out the work. Mr. Ohl said you will see this often, especially where it is a pre-engineered building. Mr. McCaffrey asked how the construction world is moving today and Mr. Patangia said schedules are being affected and parts are hard to get and many contractors are asking about substitution parts. Mr. McCaffrey said that should encourage us to get going now. At the next meeting we will want to know if there are any big changes and keep an eye out if there is anything to be preordered. Mr. Orcutt thinks we will have a lengthy discussion on ordering and schedule once we have our contractor.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said there are no comments back from the permitting agency yet. The bid documents were reviewed through the town's legal counsel and the central registrar advertisement will be live tomorrow and there has already been some interest. We will see the four key well drillers taking out documents and bidding. The bid opening will be January 28th for both sub-bids and the general contractor. All of the sub-bids for the Treatment Plant are going through Project Dog and the Whitney Well III bids will be received in person in Bolton at CEI's office. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there will be a well driller and a general contractor and Mr. Ohl said yes and they are separate bid documents. Mr. Ohl talked to the company that did the well testing. They said pulling the well screen out of the bid specifications, ordering it ourselves and then giving it to the contractor won't do much. The documents have a requirement that within 10 days of contract award the bidder will need to submit the shop drawing for the well screen so we can immediately get it ordered so the responsibility stays with the bidder. Mr. McCaffrey asked when the general contractor info will be out and Mr. Ohl said it will be delayed by a few weeks which will not affect anything on the schedule. Mr. McCaffrey asked when we should hear from DEP

and Mr. Ohl said he will check in this week and expects a response by the end of the month. Mr. McCaffrey said we won't want to hire anyone without our DEP approval.

Mr. Patangia asked if we are all set with GELD and transformer and Mr. Orcutt said they do have the transformer for us and they are working on replacing poles. Mr. Patangia wants to make sure they put it in the right spot. Mr. Orcutt will be sure to check on that.

Mr. Orcutt will update the milestones.

Mr. McCaffrey asked why the previous meeting minutes said 375 gallons per minute for Whitney Well III and he thought it was 450 gallons per minute. Mr. Ohl explained that 450 gallons per minute is the allowable amount per day and you don't run it all day long so it will come out under 375 gallons per minute.

Finances – Treatment Plant and Whitney Well III

Mrs. Crory said that the January bills went out with the new Manganese Capital Charges and we have not had any feedback yet. She created a memo explaining the new categories for the charges and has posted that to our website.

Payroll and Expense Warrant Signatures – Water Superintendent

Mr. Gmeiner moved to authorize the Water Superintendent to sign expenses and warrant of payment of expenses for such time as employees aren't permitted to work in the town hall, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner will continue signing payroll electronically.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said PFAS testing was today and we should have results in a few weeks. Mr. Fishbone asked how it will work when Whitney Well III is online. Mr. Orcutt said it will have an initial PFAS test and then will be added to our schedule.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of December 14th, 2021 as amended, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 8:22pm, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory