

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, January 25th, 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.

Mr. Orcutt began the meeting by speaking about Former Water Superintendent, John Walsh, and asked to give a moment of silence on behalf of his passing.

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Orcutt said the bid opening will be on Friday. Mr. Patangia said the sub-bids are due electronically on Friday at 2pm. They will compile the results and send them over. They can send preliminary results this week after the bid opening. There were 196 plan takers, 12 general contractors, an addendum #2, and about 50 minor contractor questions for clarification. Mr. McCaffrey asked about material shortages and when we will figure out any potential issues. Mr. Patangia thinks the contractors would be asking that now and no one has. Some contractors on current projects have asked for substitutions.

Mr. Patangia said that we will open the bids from general contractor on February 15th and Mr. Orcutt said we will have a meeting that night. Mr. Patangia said we can view the numbers but it won't be vetted yet. Mr. Orcutt said we can issue the notice of award the following week. Mr. Patangia said after the award we will work on bonds and paperwork and notice to proceed will be a month later in early March. Mr. Rafferty said they will have 10 days to get the bonds and paperwork back.

Mr. Orcutt said there was a question regarding a substitute treatment process. Mr. Patangia said the folks asking for a substitution won't be reviewed at this time. There would be some hoops they would have to jump through to make that possible. Mr. Ohl said you would want a demonstration of past use of the substitution of this size on a municipal scale.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. McCaffrey asked about DEP responses and Mr. Ohl said they should respond to pump test report this week. It should be a straight forward process. On the MEPA filing,

it has a more rigid schedule and the deadline is in mid-February to issue their notice. By the end of February, we should have everything in place.

Mr. Ohl said the bid opening for well construction is this Friday. We are getting very good interest from the local well drillers so we should expect at least four bids. They are all known entities and they have to be a certified well driller per MA DEP.

The other contract will be for the parts going in the temporary pump station. Those documents should be ready for central register by next Thursday. It would show up the following week. The electrical sub-bids will be included. The opening for the Whitney Well III building will be opened March 1st. Mr. Orcutt said the shed built by the Nashoba Tech students looks great.

Mr. McCaffrey asked how many gallons per minute the high school needs (in light of the news of possible PFAS contamination). Mr. Orcutt thinks we could supply them if we needed. Mr. McCaffrey asked what small system could filter out PFAS and iron and manganese for the high school and Mr. Orcutt is not entirely sure what the high school has for treatment processes but iron and manganese is not onsite and PFAS treatment could be a costly endeavor for them. Mr. Orcutt said he is sure there will be upcoming meetings to look at options for PFAS remediation. If the PFAS is coming from the aquifer then it is more of a public health issue. Mr. Rafferty said it is concerning because there is no obvious source of the PFAS near the high school. Mr. Orcutt assumes that the Water Department and other boards will be involved because the school committees are not experts in this area.

Mr. Ohl said as a reference point, a small system needing 20 gallons per minute for a small school, start to finish costed about \$250,000 for iron and manganese only. Mr. Ohl would guess another \$100,000 for PFAS treatment.

Finances – Treatment Plant and Whitney Well III

Mrs. Crory said there are no updates. Mr. Orcutt said there has not been any comments regarding the increased Manganese Capital Charge.

Reaffirm Vote (Materials)

Mr. Orcutt said a number of years ago the Board voted to standardize on Mueller materials and brass. Mr. Fishbone asked if anything has changed in terms of new materials on the market. Mr. Orcutt said there has not been any changes. Mr. Orcutt thinks it should just get an updated vote for our files if everyone agrees.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to standardize on Mueller centurion fire hydrants, Mueller gate valves, Mueller brass such as corporations, stops and curb stops, and North

American and Canadian made ductile iron products, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said the board members can sign invoices by appointment at town hall starting next week. Mr. Gmeiner asked for the bills to be put in the mailroom.

Mr. Orcutt will send well levels out. The SCADA interviews will be next week. We had two water leaks on Boston Road this week that were pinhole leaks in the copper service line.

Mrs. Crory said our revenue is looking good based on our 6-month review. Next week we will start looking at the budget to decide if we need an E&D Transfer at the Spring Town Meeting.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of December 21st, 2021 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory