

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, April 12th, 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 Alysa Longo from Environmental Partners and David Roman and Michael Ohl from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, schedule

Mr. Patangia said the contractor forwarded an informal schedule but it was incomplete so they kicked it back with comments and they hope to get a formal schedule in the next few weeks. The contractor will be using Procore for viewing shop drawings online. They have ordered storage boxes to be delivered on site in the next few weeks. Mr. McCaffrey confirmed that summer of 2024 is the deadline, and Mr. Patangia said that is correct and the calendar is for 548 days. Most of the work will be completed by September of 2023 but then they have to tie into the wells. Mr. Orcutt said based on that schedule we should be running water through the plant during the winter.

Mr. Fishbone asked about access to the online shop drawings and Mr. Patangia said that Mr. Ohl and Mr. Orcutt will have access.

Whitney Pond Well #3 – progress update, schedule

Mr. Ohl said the construction contracts for the gravel packed well were signed a month ago, he has had conversations with the contractor and has been assured he will receive shop drawings, but they have not come in yet. Mr. Ohl reminded the contractor of their contractual obligations to have this running by July and he has not heard back. Mr. McCaffrey asked what options we have to terminate the contract and go to someone else if needed. Mr. Ohl said essentially the bond company would step in and would get someone else to start the project but there would be delays in going that route. Mr. Ohl said they had the opportunity to pull their contract when there was an error on the bid amount and they did not, so he not sure where they stand. Mr. Ohl will try to reach them by phone in the morning. Mr. Orcutt suggests to set up a teleconference tomorrow with

the Town Manager. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we have a backup plan and Mr. Ohl said that the three other bidders could do the job.

Mr. Ohl said the pump station contract was sent to Dankris and we should be getting it back this week and it will be sent right over to Mr. Orcutt for the Town Manager's signature.

Mr. Roman said the WS19 pump test was approved on Friday. There were a few conditions and the time sensitive portion is to adopt Zone 2 into the Water Resource Protection Overlay District. Mr. Roman reached out to DEP and there is a backup option to get a letter from the Planning Board if this doesn't get done at the Spring Town Meeting. DEP is reviewing the WS20 and we are expecting comments back in early May. The MA Wildlife MESA application is also submitted and their review schedule will be to make a decision by the end of the month. The Interbasin Transfer is still in the works and Mr. Roman will be coordinating with them tomorrow to see where we stand on that. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we can pump at the current levels and Mr. Roman said we will still need Water Management Act approval, the Zone 2 approval, and the Interbasin Transfer issue resolved. Mr. Orcutt said when we do go to request additional withdrawal, they will have already seen all of these items which will be helpful.

Mr. McCaffrey reiterated that we want to be able to pump at our current level this summer and pump at the increased withdrawal next summer and everyone confirmed.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the Water Resource Map because the underlying map looks very old (1913). It doesn't have certain road names but it works since it shows the geographical location. Mr. Orcutt said that Mr. Tada in the Land Use Department has requested that Zone 2 be put on the GIS map so Mr. Orcutt will send CEI the shape file and that will be the map to be voted at Town Meeting.

Fiscal Year 2022 & 2023

Mrs. Crory said the Spring Transfer amount was reduced from \$95,000 to \$85,000 because our construction income deficit has been reduced.

The Board would like her to email a 3rd quarter financial review and forecasted budget.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said he received an email from DEP and the high school had asked them about using the well water for irrigation and got approval. Mr. Orcutt does not think that it is the best idea to spread it around. Mr. Orcutt also said DEP was asking if there was town water on certain streets (around the high school) and Mr. Orcutt told them there is no town water in that area. Mr. Orcutt said we have no private well data yet but some have been tested. Mr. Orcutt is also collecting samples from irrigation wells in town to be

tested. Mr. McCaffrey asked if they had a date to get a plan in place and Mr. Orcutt is not sure of the dates but believes the short plan is to use bottled water until they come up with a long-term plan. Mr. Orcutt does not know if they have hired an engineer yet. Mr. Orcutt said the Selectboard is still handling and not the Board of Health.

Mr. Orcutt said we will start our semi-annual water main flushing next week for three weeks.

The water quality and manganese results look good. Mr. Orcutt said we need a rainy April and May to get well levels where we would like.

The next meeting will be April 26th.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of March 29th as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer \$1000.00 from General Expenses to Well Infrastructure Improvements, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:04 pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory