Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the

Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, August 9th, 2022

Virtual Meeting using Zoom

# Minutes

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

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant – progress update, schedule

Mr. Patangia said that the town processed the first pay requisition and the next one is being reviewed. The contractor started clearing and excavating the lagoons. The location of the final utility pole was selected and installed this week and the transformer should be going in this week. We are waiting for a firm baseline schedule, but are still on target for December 2023 completion. The project sign was approved by the sign committee last week, and the lighting has been approved also. Site representation is still out there every day. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there are any supply chain issues and Mr. Patangia said the generator may have a year long lead time but has been selected. Mr. Patangia said that electrical equipment may be troublesome, so the engineer has asked them to expedite the order. The rebar shouldn’t be needed for at least a month, so we should be ok but will follow up with them. Mr. Orcutt asked if Ms. Longo received the shop drawing yet and Mr. Patangia will check. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there was anything done with solar yet and Mr. Orcutt said it depends on the grant and may be 2-3 months but he will follow up.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said Dankris has made arraignments to have the portable generator there tomorrow. We are still awaiting the water quality results and completion reports from D.L. Mahar. Mr. Orcutt is waiting on the PFAS results.

Mr. Ohl said that Dankris has been working in compliance with their revised schedule. They put the vault in, finished exterior piping, are working on duct banks, and assisted in the pole location and transformer pad location. Dankris’ electrical sub did put in the duct banks from the pump station to the transformer and the stubs under the treatment plant. They are hoping to have the duct banks completed and filled this week. The transformer pad should be done by the end of next week. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. McCaffrey heard it would be done this Friday. Mr. Orcutt asked when they will start inside and Mr. Ohl said they started insulation and plywood, and next week will be the fan and HVAC, and then will move onto the feed. Mr. Orcutt asked about the chemical pumps and Mr. Ohl said the contractor noted it may be over 90 days to get the pumps and Mr. Orcutt though he could get them in two weeks. Mr. Orcutt said we will deduct it from their contract if we need to buy it ourselves. Mr. Ohl has been receiving shop drawings for the electrical. Mr. McCaffrey asked when the pump would be operating and Mr. Ohl said November 1st is the change order date.

Mr. Ohl said there has been no progress on permitting. The DCR reached out last week saying they are working on it. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the 90-day clock has started. Mr. Ohl is not sure, but he did send out our paperwork a few (3 weeks) ago. Mr. Ohl said the clock should be started but wants confirmation. If the clock did start then 90 days would be up in mid-October. Mr. Orcutt asked if there is a public notification with the 90-day period and Mr. Ohl said it is built in with that submittal. Mr. Orcutt will reach out again to try to confirm the status.

Mr. Rafferty from Environmental Partners will be on-call status for future work. This would be for smaller projects. Mr. Orcutt said he will check on giving Mr. Rafferty the hydraulic model.

Mr. Gmeiner would like to hear from town council before voting on this.

ARPA Funds – Taylor and Main St Replacement Project

No update.

Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt asked the commissioners if we can step up the enforcement on the water ban.

Mr. McCaffrey approves of this. Mr. Gmeiner is fine with his but wants every warning documented with a letter and have the interval for a fine be less than a week.

Other Business

Mrs. Crory explained that some of the FY22 transferred funds were carried to FY23 in the capital projects. In the future we need to request these to be released to free cash. We can transfer these funds to the general budget at the spring town meeting.

Mr. Orcutt will submit an article for Fall Town Meeting for authorization to borrow another $150,000 for Whitney Well III due to the estimated total construction cost being too low.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to request an article for the Fall Town Meeting warrant for authorization to borrow another $150,000 for the Whitney Well III project.

Next meeting August 30th.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:13pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory