

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 13th, 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, Bob Rafferty, and Alysa Longo from Environmental Partners, 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

Ms. Longo said that R.H. White has provided 161 submittal and resubmittals and they have returned 144 of them. The metal building is partially approved and is on track for delivery and completion. There are some long lead time issues that are being reviewed. She said that 19 out of 20 RFIs have been responded to. There are no new proposed change orders and they are waiting for cost changes from the Contractor but expect a credit. The third pay requisition was just submitted to the town today. There are some concerns with the R.H. White schedule and they have been getting submittals and revised schedules, but look to still be on track for the December 2023 deadline.

Ms. Longo said the lagoon excavation is done but nothing no excavation has been done for the treatment plant.

Mr. Orcutt said they are meeting weekly with R.H. White until they are comfortable the project is moving at an acceptable pace.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said that all the well work has been completed and the payments are being processed with one change order for larger diameter casings in the amount of about \$10,000. They left temporary casings in place due to loose sand which caused the cost increase.

Mr. Orcutt asked if we should close out the DL Mahar contract or wait and Mr. Ohl said to wait if they aren't pressing. Mr. Ohl said that Dankris Builders have been working according to their revised schedule. The exterior work is complete and they have finished off the insulation, so they are fitting out the equipment. They have been waiting on some of the chemical feed supplies to be delivered. We have seen the submittals from the electrical subcontractor.

Mr. Gmeiner joined at 7:37pm.

The VFD will be delivered by Dankris to the subcontractors for the soft start to begin. They are still on track to finish in November. As of December, we can run it to waste.

The next big item will be the Water Management Act permit. We have not received the paperwork from DEP to proceed. Mr. Orcutt asked if the town should set up a one on one with his contact at MA DEP or include a lot of people. Mr. Orcutt will try to set up a meeting with Mr. Haddad and his contact.

ARPA Funds – Taylor and Main Street Replacement

Mr. Rafferty said there is no update on this and he will have the base plan next week.

Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt said we are pumping 10-12 hours a day and the drawdown shows the wells recovering. The recent precipitation didn't do much. Mr. Orcutt is concerned with the flushing program and is pushing it out a week and will limit to 6 days. Florence Roche will be allowed to irrigate once the water system is approved.

Other Business

Mr. McCaffrey asked about the signature authority going to Mr. Orcutt for warrants and payroll. Mr. Fishbone does not want to give it up forever. Mr. Gmeiner has mixed feeling and currently checks and signs the payroll. Mr. Orcutt doesn't care what the Board decides to do and said it is up to them. The Department Heads have been signing since Covid but if they want to sign, they can come to the office to do that. The Board brainstormed some ideas and ultimately Mr. Orcutt said that Mrs. Livezey can create a coversheet of expenses that can be sent to the Board Members to review. He will send this out to them to see if it is acceptable.

Mr. Orcutt said that regarding the PFAS at the High School Tighe and Bond has reached out to Dunstable to see if they have capacity. There will be upcoming meetings with surrounding Towns and officials to determine the best course of action for the town and the High School.

Made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26th and August 9th as amended.

The next meeting September 27th.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:31pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory