

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, October 12th, 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, 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 had the first concrete pour yesterday for the slab and will continue working on the walls in two weeks. The site contractor shifted to the excavation for the water treatment facility and ordered the rebar. They have done all the excavation for the lagoons and it will be held off until the spring now. There have been 195 submittals and 10 are being worked on right now. There are 23 RFI's that have come in and 22 have been responded to. There was a question on elevation of the building footing. The final September pay requisition will be sent next week. There have been change orders but all have been credits to the contract (\$25,000 credit so far). There should be one more coming.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about the VFD for the treatment building and Mr. Longo said that Whitney Well III is getting its own from CEI. There will be one new VFD for Whitney Well III in the treatment plant.

Mr. McCaffrey asked when the major concrete will be done and Ms. Longo sees it going into December (by the end of the year). Mr. Rafferty thinks that will be fine according to their schedule.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said that the contractor has been moving along on the pump station. Dankris has installed mostly everything but electrical is remaining and scheduled for next week which is on track with the revised schedule to be completed in November. One outstanding item is the motor starter and the VFD lead time is being furnished to R.H. White. There has been a shift to motor starter because it is easier to obtain but now is caught up in a supply chain issue and may not be available. Mr. Ohl has directed the contractor to get everything all set so that it will be the only remaining piece.

Mr. Ohl said that regarding the Water Management Act permitting, Mr. Orcutt reached out to DEP and they confirmed via email that they are only waiting on feedback on responses from the Department of Fisheries and Wildlife. DEP notes that they understood the urgency and we will

continue to stay on them. Mr. Orcutt said that he will follow up with them to see if there have been any comments yet.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about a date for motor starter and Mr. Ohl said they are supposed to have it by end of November but it not in hand yet so could be delayed. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the VFD was approved and Mr. Ohl said it has been approved and should be available for Fall River as a sub to RH White. Mr. Ohl said it could be up to 24 weeks for some of this equipment. The electrical sub was noting they weren't expecting Fall River on site until next summer. Mr. McCaffrey asked if it will be running by Summer 2023. Mr. Orcutt wants it on by March when he cleans the wells. Mr. Ohl said at the end of the year we can begin a soft start. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the little pump station will be working in Summer 2023 and Mr. Orcutt believes it will be running by itself until we transfer to the treatment plant in September or October.

Mr. Orcutt asked if Dankris has another invoice and Mr. Ohl will be sending that to us. Mr. Orcutt said we need them to do a change order to remove the SCADA portion of the bid since its being handled separately. Mr. Ohl said we also have issues in terms of removing Shattuck's permit and Mr. Orcutt will assist in this paperwork.

ARPA Funds – Taylor and Main Street Replacement

Mr. Rafferty is working on plans for us to review. Mr. Orcutt has talked to the developers at Taylor St and the Deluxe property and has been reiterating what we expect from them for infrastructure improvements and connections to this pipe. Mr. McCaffrey asked when we will get started on this and Mr. Orcutt wanted January 1st but now it's a late spring or summer construction which should be fine with the timeline of the two projects.

Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt does not want to end the conservation program. If people call the office and inquire about watering, he will not stop them if they are making lawn repairs etc. Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Fishbone thinks we should put a statement on the website with an update.

Other Business

Ms. Crory spoke about the certified Free Cash balance.

Mr. Orcutt said chemical costs have increased. He said the budget is being worked on. He also said that fuel, electricity and chemicals is going to be tough on our budgets.

Mr. Orcutt did not have a PFAS meeting and it is rescheduled for next week. Mr. Gmeiner will be attending that meeting. There is PFAS at Baptist camp, per Michelle Collette, and they may need to take their wells offline. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we can get copies of the PFAS results and Mr. Orcutt will get that.

Mr. McCaffrey will be traveling for a few months. Mr. Orcutt explained some avenues that will be explored during our rate hearing.

Next Meeting October 25th.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:17pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory