

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, July 26th, 2023
1st Floor Meeting Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman, Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

PFAS

Mr. Orcutt would like Mr. Gmeiner to find out if the Water Department, legally, can decide to move forward or refrain from the Pepperell connection.

Mr. McCaffrey said the Selectboard could still pick the Pepperell option, so they would not need to deal with interbasin transfer issues and it appears to be a quicker connection.

Mr. Gmeiner will ask Mr. Haddad if he has talked to town counsel about who can make the final decision.

Mr. Fishbone reiterated that the goal of PFAS is zero.

Mr. Orcutt said that on page 22 of 23 (on the July 11th matric/memo) it states that EP recommends proceeding with the Groton Water Connection expansion.

Mr. Gmeiner said they will still need to get through town meeting and parents of students tend to turn out.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if we estimate the annual income of \$33,000, we can offer to kick in \$1,000,000 over 30 years, as a worst case. Mr. Fishbone agreed that could make it revenue neutral.

Mr. Gmeiner discussed the interbasin issue and said our engineers said there is no way we could trade the Lost Lake sewage for more Pepperell sewer capacity and they said it would be very unlikely, so Mr. Gmeiner feels better about giving it up if needed for the interbasin transfer issue.

Mr. Orcutt asked what number would make them comfortable and the Board wants to be very confident they will be close bringing in \$30,000 of new revenue.

Mr. Orcutt said they can find \$30,000 if they need it, and the Board does not like that idea and wants to be close to revenue neutral.

Mr. Fishbone said that rates will also be rising over 30 years so we should be able to get to that number.

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Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said that DEP sent the Whitney Well III approval today. Mr. Orcutt said there was more PFAS testing done and we will wait until 4ppt to put it online (we will continue flushing).

Next Meeting is July 31st at the Selectboard meeting.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:00pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory