

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, May 23rd, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory and Dave Patangia, Bob Rafferty, and Tyler Schmidt from Environmental Partners, and Michael Ohl from CEI.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:14pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Schmidt said the CMU walls are almost complete. There is work being done on the trim work, exterior electrical work, outdoor equipment pads for generators, electrical, and HVAC and plumbing are beginning to mobilize to the site. There have been 332/335 submittals and 55/57 RFIs returned. There have been 4/7 change orders approved at a value of about \$15,000. The April Pay Requisition has been approved and sent to town. The next progress meeting is June 1st at 11am.

Mr. Schmidt was notified that the MCC (Motor Control Panel) had been delayed with the original August delivery date moved to December. The electrical sub has helped come up with a resolution and will replace it with 3 individual panels and this will result in a credit. Mr. Orcutt asked what the schedule would be for this new plan and Mr. Schmidt believes it is a three-month delivery time. Mr. Fishbone asked what the difference is, and Mr. Schmidt said the MCC is an engineered customized panel that combines individual panels. The individual panels are more off the shelf. The MCC is just a cleaner install but the functionality will be the same. This will just result in more electrical labor but less expensive equipment. Mr. Ohl said this sounds like a good plan. Mr. Fishbone asked if there is a cost to cancel the MCC order and Mr. Schmidt said they would fight back on any cost. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there is any issue with SCADA and Mr. Schmidt said there is not. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the electrical sub can wire the three and Mr. Schmidt said they should be able to. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Haddad will need to sign the change order when it comes in.

Mr. Orcutt said there was not a lot of activity on the site this week and last and is concerned. Mr. Orcutt asked if the siding has been completed and Mr. Schmidt said it has been, for the most part. Mr. Orcutt asked if Mohotta is returning and Mr. Schmidt said vendors cancelled this week including Mohotta and are struggling to find a substitute for their sand. This change was approved awhile ago, and then another was rejected because did not fit the requirements. The electrician was delayed because they were tied up on another project. Mr. Orcutt asked if the

electrical inspector has approved the duct banks and Mr. Schmidt was not sure, but Mr. Patangia said they were poured so most likely he was there.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the floor and Mr. Schmidt said they met with the floor product manufacture and it looks better but not as good as it should. They have been told that further cleaning and reapplying will not change it. The contractor mentioned a coating to help cover the discoloration and will submit information regarding this. Mr. Schmidt said they will wait and see, because if they do it now it could be damaged, so they may apply epoxy later on.

Mr. Orcutt asked about any change orders for solar panels yet. Mr. Rafferty will be working on that this week.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Ohl said the contractor has been taking care of odds and ends and did the start up of the chemical metering systems and analyzers. The town has been running the new well to waste. All was good until the end of next week until there was air observed and pump rates were dropping. As of today, when the town ran it, it is back to normal, so will continue to keep an eye on it to make sure any issue would be covered under the contract and warranties. Mr. Orcutt asked if there is meeting tomorrow and Mr. Ohl said there is not. Mr. Orcutt said they took the PFAS, bacteria, and iron & manganese samples today.

The electrical sub hopes to have the VFD this week and installation on Friday. This means we no longer need to worry about slowing the flow rate. The spare starter will be available and Mr. Orcutt said they will keep it in storage. Mr. Ohl is waiting for a date from ITS for SCADA. Once that is complete, we can get DEP in and get things finalized. Mr. Fishbone asked if we can schedule them yet, and Mr. Ohl said they could do the physical inspection first and then wait on the sample results if needed.

500 Main St – Groton Farms Updates

No updates

GDRHS / PFAS – Updates

Mr. Orcutt said that they met with and Pepperell and Dunstable again. Mr. Schmidt is reaching out to DEP regarding permitting requirements and timelines to get the alternative I (tri-town) connected. He is also working on Emergency SRF funding with DEP. Mr. Schmidt said they will get a full application into them in 3-4 weeks. Mr. Orcutt is working on the MassGrant application for alternative 2 (Groton Connection).

Superintendent's & Business Manager's Updates

Mrs. Crory said the expense budget looks ok to get us to the end of the year (with our Spring Transfer). Mrs. Crory will begin constructing year-end forecasts after the last billing cycle is submitted on June 1.

Other Business

Mrs. Crory reviewed the details of the toilet leak that occurred at 78B Nod Rd. The customer received a high bill, contacted the office, scheduled a meter change, determined there was a toilet leak, fixed the toilet leak promptly, and usage has returned to normal. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to abate all 63 units of usage to the lowest water tier which will provide an abatement of \$115.50 and a new water usage change of \$280.35.

Executive Session

Mr. Fishbone approved the minutes of April 25th as amended, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 7:49 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory