

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

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

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Orcutt said the treatment plant is up and running and operating well. Mr. Maloney said the manganese removal rate is better than expected. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the intervals between backwashes will be longer and Mr. Maloney said that is correct. Mr. Orcutt said that all 3 filters are working (2 at a time)

Mr. Maloney said the dehumidifier is an issue because it runs constantly and the emergency backwash is being worked on, but everything else is pretty good. There are minor cosmetic issues. Mr. Maloney rates the floor a 6/10. Mr. Rafferty came out to look at it and saw some flaws and Mr. Schmidt will be notified.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney Well #3 is being used to waste. They are getting bigger hoses from fire department to run it at a higher rate. Mr. McCaffrey asked how long we will run it and Mr. Orcutt said it will be run to waste for about 4-6 weeks before we do a final PFAS test.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Mr. Orcutt is finalizing the CCR and needs to add updated water quality data. It will be sent out the customers by April 1st.

The Annual Statistical Report is due in April. The unaccounted-for water is the biggest issue but since it was a very wet year, we should not trip permits or registrations. Mr. Maloney will watch over these annual reports.

Mr. Orcutt is working on the Lead and Copper inventory plan that is due in October. It entails a lot of data entry and he is working through every street and address. The older sections of towns are more difficult.

Mr. Orcutt said the divers will be in on Thursday to clean Baddacook. Peter Mahar will be cleaning Whitney Well #1 in March and we will hopefully get a season out of it. The cost to

conduct this cleaning with chemicals is \$13,000-\$20,000 and without chemicals is \$8,000-\$10,000.

Mr. Orcutt said that Spring Water Main Flushing will begin soon. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there will be more flushes and Mr. Orcutt thinks a thorough Spring Flush is going to hold them off through Fall. Mr. Maloney said they are trying to do every street.

Fiscal Year 2024 Operating Budget

Mrs. Crory reviewed the updated Manganese Debt Schedule and Whitney Well Debt Schedules based on the new February Permanent Bond for the construction portions of both projects. The Manganese Debt payments were less than estimated so the capital fee will be reviewed at the December rate hearing. The Whitney Well #3 debt payments increased for the first 8 years, but then subsequently will decrease for the remaining 20 years. This will also be reviewed at the December rate hearing. The engineering funds will be permanently borrowed in June of 2024 and those numbers will be updated to actuals at that time.

Mrs. Crory will add the previous years to the new Whitney Well #3 spreadsheet.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 16th, 2024 the as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 6th, 2024 the as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 13th, 2024 the as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory