

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025  
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Sustainability Committee Member Ginger Vollmar.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:30pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Summer Water Conservation Program / Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt said that water use just started ramping up about a week ago and water levels look good. The state has lifted all drought restrictions. Mr. Orcutt said we have the standard odd/even conservation program in place.

Operational Updates: Whitney, Flushing

Mr. Orcutt said they are working on the greensand filter issue with Town Council. He hopes that they will get the letter to us within a week and we can try to recoup some of the cost for this additional filter media. The cost was about \$45,000.

The next phase of the Water Main Project on Chicopee Row will be starting later this week or next Monday. The plumbing is being done at the school in the pump room. Once that is done, Mr. Orcutt will ask DEP for approval to irrigate. They will be working on the chlorine booster station soon.

Mr. Orcutt said there was an issue with the water level transducer that got some moisture in it. The technicians are working around it manually until Harbor Controls can come out to repair.

Mr. Orcutt said we unfortunately did hit the electric peak demand charge in May during the spring water main flushing.

Mr. Orcutt said they are working on a round of lead and copper samples and will be done for a while once completed.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if they are repaving Chicopee Row and Mr. Orcutt said they know they need to address the trench. The program in the bid calls for a full mill and overlay after 90 days of settlement. The 90-day period doesn't begin until all work is completed so won't be until around Thanksgiving. He is working with the DPW Director and Town Manager on an interim plan.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Updates

Mrs. Crory reviewed the forecasted year end budget which has improved. She said they received about five new residential connection fees over the past few months which helped the income budget and hopes the bottom line income will be about \$17,000 over the budgeted amount.

The general expenses bottom line looks good leaving \$16,000 of unspent expenses which will return to the enterprise fund. She did note that a few line items such as chemicals and electricity were over budget. This was somewhat expected as we tried to forecast the additional expenses for the new treatment plant and will be taken into consideration for the FY27 budget.

No wage or salary transfers are needed for FY25. The technicians and Superintendent are normally paid their stipends in June but will be paid in July due to the new contracts.

### Other Business

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to vote Jim Gmeiner as the signatory for the week of July 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 while Mr. Orcutt is on vacation, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt sent out a copy of his retirement letter thanked the commission for all of the good years.

Mr. Orcutt sent out his request for an increased license stipend to match the technicians' contractual increase which brings the stipend from \$2500 to \$3750 annually.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the \$1250 stipend increase to match the technicians' increase, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt requested to go to the annual MWWA Conference in Maine in August.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approved Mr. Orcutt attending the MWWA Conference, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025 as written, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory