

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 30th, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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 7:35pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Mr. Orcutt said things are quieting down after summer and there is some minor work at the facilities. Water Consumption is on its way down and is about 20% less and the wells are running 9-12 hours per day. There are no capacity issues currently. The technicians are working on backflows and meter changes.

Mr. McCaffrey asked when the high school will see water and Mr. Orcutt said the pump station was delayed until next week and will take 30 days to complete so they are hoping for November 1st. Mr. Orcutt said once the pump station is complete, operable, and approved by DEP; the houses can begin to be connected. Mr. Orcutt does not know how long it will take to get the 84 homes connected.

Financials

Mrs. Crory reviewed the FY25 Certified Free Cash which was approved at \$457,406. She noted that a small portion is reserved for the final year of the manganese fund plan (up to \$52,000) and the department requested a fall transfer for a truck which will be close to \$60,000. After making those adjustments the free cash is closer to \$345,000.

Mrs. Crory will begin the FY27 budget and will look at FY28 which is when all old debt falls off the books. Mr. McCaffrey asked what the total amount of old debt reduction is and Mrs. Crory estimated \$350,000. He wants to keep that in mind as we plan to reduce the Manganese Capital Fee assessed to our customers.

Mr. Fishbone asked what the Prudential Committee is referencing on the email from the state regarding the certified free cash. Mr. Orcutt and Mrs. Crory have not heard of that Committee and will check with the Town Accountant.

Mr. McCaffrey reminded the Commissioners that the department is receiving PFAS remediation payments that can be used towards future treatment expenses. Mrs. Crory is tracking these payments. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we are receiving the interest on these funds since the town is holding it in a special fund. Mrs. Crory will get an answer for the next meeting.

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Other Business

Mr. McCaffrey met with Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Haddad regarding the lack of qualified applicants from the first advertisement. Mr. McCaffrey said the plan is to readvertise with a higher pay scale to attract more qualified applicants. Mr. Orcutt said a few of the applicants had significant experience in the water industry but did not meet all the minimum requirements. Mr. Orcutt would like to thoroughly review the current applicants and potentially interview a few of them before readvertising. Mr. McCaffrey stressed the time constraints and would like to do this quickly. They will try to meet with Mr. Haddad on Thursday to decide on interviews from the first round of applicants.

Mr. McCaffrey will also be in touch with the Water Department to form an interim plan if a new Superintendent is not entirely ready by January 1st. He expressed the importance of Mr. Orcutt comfortably retiring at his intended date and wants to have a plan in place.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14th.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of September 9th, 2025 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory