

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, February 10th, 2026
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Acting Superintendent Rob Maloney, and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:34pm and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates (Superintendent):

Mr. Maloney said they have had a good breakthrough at the treatment plant with the filter issue. They no longer need to move forward with the piloting. They will schedule well cleaning in the upcoming months. Mrs. Crory said there is money set aside in the Well Maintenance line item.

Mr. McCaffrey reviewed some items from the Superintendent Transition list. Mr. Maloney said we did discuss the grant with Mr. Orcutt but did not ask him to complete it and be paid to do so. The commissioners would agree to pay him if he is willing to complete the grant for the fiberoptic connection between the two plants. Mrs. Crory will reach out to him.

Mr. Maloney said the monthly sampling is going well but the next extensive round of sampling will be in April.

Mr. Maloney said that the high school is using the water but is not approved by DEP for consumption yet. He has reached out to DEP regarding the lead and copper sampling and other checklist items and has not heard back. He is hoping the lead and copper can be waived since it was done for the recent new source at Whitney.

Mr. McCaffrey added that Mr. Knox and Mr. Maloney have a checklist of their own items and questions regarding the high school connection that Mr. Maloney will continue to work on with the Contractors and Engineers.

Financial Updates (Business Manager)

Mrs. Crory will begin a budget review and will determine if an Enterprise Fund Transfer will be necessary at the Spring Town Meeting. She has submitted a placeholder and believes we have until early April to submit a number. Mr. McCaffrey suggests meeting twice in March to review the budget and potential Spring Town Meeting transfer amounts.

Superintendent Transition

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mr. Maloney if he could review the DEP reports and sampling schedule that Mr. Orcutt left.

February 10th, 2026

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner gave a history of the Business Manager and Water/Sewer Assistant salaries and wages. The Sewer Commission has been paying 1/3 of the Business Manager salary for some time based on the estimate of 1/3 of customers having town sewer. The Water/Sewer Assistant is paid fully out of Sewer even though the position is responsible for some water related duties (payments, invoices, customer service).

Mr. Gmeiner said that given the recent increase to the Business Manager Salary, the Sewer Commission agreed to continue the 1/3 salary split contingent on the Water Department paying 1/3 of the Water/Sewer Assistant wages. Mr. McCaffrey asked Mrs. Crory if those splits seem reasonable and she agrees with them. This can be voted on at the next meeting but the commissioners are in agreement with the principle.

It should be noted that the Business Manager salary increase was for employee retention which is why the Sewer Commission will continue the original split.

Mr. McCaffrey said the Water Department will need to begin looking for Mr. Knox's replacement if he plans to retire in the fall. Mr. Maloney thinks it is wise to have a long training period with Mr. Knox and recommends starting the with the internal job posting in March.

Mr. McCaffrey will also be speaking with Mr. Maloney in regards to the next Water Superintendent posting which should also be around March.

Next Meeting is March 10th.

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

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of December 23rd, 2025 as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of January 13th, 2026 as written, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 8:04pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory