

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

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Member James Gmeiner, Interim Superintendent Rob Maloney, Business Manager Lauren Crory.

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

Operational Updates – Water Superintendent Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Discussion

Mr. Maloney explained that the VFD exploded due to an electrical fault. It had to be replaced, and a backup device was ordered in case this were to happen again. This explains why there were extra charges in the Well Maintenance budget. Mr. McCaffrey asked if they planned to move these VFDs into the new Treatment Plant and Mr. Maloney said the current location provides better access for daily inspections.

Mr. Maloney said we received only one Well Cleaning Bid for the Cleaning of two wells. The expected cost is about \$40,000 which is more than anticipated but for both wells and inflation this number is in line.

Mr. Maloney said that the Annual Statistical Report is being worked on. He also said they are talking with DEP about how to handle the new Chlorine Booster station for the high school. DEP approved it to be used on a “as needed” basis.

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mr. Gmeiner to monitor the project at 500 Main St and to provide updates to the commission.

FY2026 Budget Review – Business Manager

Mrs. Crory presented a FY26 budget review, confirming they do not need a spring town meeting transfer since a significant transfer was made in the fall to cover the maximum shortfall. The current forecast shows a \$60,000 net income shortfall, primarily due to a \$180,000 construction income gap, though this is partially offset by expected water rate revenue exceeding budget by \$120,000. She noted that while salaries show a \$15,000 remaining balance and wages are \$20,000 over budget, these figures will need adjustment once the new operator is hired, and a line item transfer vote may be needed for wage adjustments at year-end.

Expenses are running slightly over budget according to the forecast.

Mrs. Crory is estimating the FY27 Enterprise Fund will come in at about \$260,000. The 500 Main St project should be on track to begin in FY27 which will help replenish the Enterprise Fund Balance.

Mrs. Crory began revising the FY227 budget with recent changes such as potential operator retirement, new operator, higher Superintendent salary and potentially beginning to pay a portion of the Water and Sewer Assistant wages. She will continue to work on this as things progress and get a revised budget to the Town Manager before the warrant goes to print.

Superintendent Transition

Mr. McCaffrey emphasized the importance of teamwork and communication during this process. Mr. McCaffrey is in favor of hiring a new technician prior to the new Superintendent starting and being involved. Mrs. Crory clarified that Senior Operator, Stephen Knox, has not given his official retirement day so Human Resources will not post the job until this is done. Mr. Maloney confirmed that Mr. Knox has not given an official date yet.

Abatement Request – 80 Gilson Rd

Mrs. Crory reviewed an abatement request submitted by 80 Gilson Rd. The resident had a toilet leak which has been repaired and is now signed up for EyeOnWater and Leak Alerts.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the water abatement at 80 Gilson Rd in the amount of \$201.02, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 10th, 2026, as written, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting will be live on March 31st, 2026.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:16pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory