

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting

Of the

Board of Water Commissioners

Thursday July 13th, 2017

Groton Town Hall 2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:39pm.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping Levels

Mr. Orcutt had distributed copies of the graphs of water levels and precipitation levels for the board. Precipitation has been good and water levels are holding steady however he said we are pumping 13-14 hours per day which is not a lot. Mr. McCaffrey asked what a good July looked like and Mr. Orcutt said 20 hours. Mr. Orcutt asked the board to look at graph that rounds out the fiscal year at 144,000 gallons. He pointed out that 2004-2005 and 2009 were bad years for pumping because of rain. Mr. McCaffrey noted that one thing that hurt rates last year was August and September since we had to stop pumping because we were hurting for levels. Mr. Orcutt said we are under the averages so far. Mr. McCaffrey asked how we did for “non-irrigation months” last year and Mr. Orcutt replied that the non-irrigation months seem to be in tune with previous years. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should keep the water ban in place and Mr. Orcutt thinks we should leave it as is and noted that hot weather is coming next week. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we have tried to run both pumps together yet and Mr. Orcutt replied that we have not needed to yet. Mr. McCaffrey thinks we should try this soon and Mr. Orcutt said we will try it before next Thursday. Mr. McCaffrey said it looks like we are working well together to avoid the peak days for the new GELD rate plan. Mr. Orcutt noted that Whitney Pond is very high already from yesterday’s rain.

Baddacook Pond Update

Mr. Orcutt said there is a meeting tomorrow morning and Mr. McCaffrey said that he can’t make it. Mr. Orcutt thinks they should hydro rake and hire locally and said CPC doesn’t care if you change plans as long as you are doing the same thing. Mr. McCaffrey thinks once this is started Mr. Orcutt should watch what they do to make sure there is no mess and things are running smoothly.

Whitney Pond Well Construction Update

Mr. Orcutt said he has been talking with project manager Mr. Strenck and has asked him to get a schedule out of them soon so that all parties can make sure everything looks good. Mr. Strenck told Mr. Orcutt that Wright Pierce gave him software to help him. Mr. Strenck also got first shop drawing and made comments. Mr. McCaffrey asked when it will start and Mr. Orcutt thinks mid to late September and hopes it will be done by end

of December. Mr. McCaffrey asked what Badacook can handle and Mr. Orcutt replied that Badacook cannot handle January and February on its own. Mr. Orcutt said we could always turn to Westford if we needed to. Mr. Orcutt said bids came in low – under the \$400,000 estimate and the Treasurer, Mr. Hartnett, has the money waiting for us. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we will be paying the \$400,000 to the contactor over 6 months – 12 months and Mr. Orcutt replied yes. Mr. Orcutt said that we may not have to dip into the extra \$100,000 that we transferred over. Mr. McCaffrey said we can have a few wish list items as long as we don't exceed our budget amounts of the \$400,000 grant and \$100,000 transfer and Mr. Orcutt agrees but does not intend to spend it all. Mr. McCaffrey would like to see and review the schedule at the next meeting.

Discuss/Approve Enterprise Fund

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mr. Gmeiner what happened after he reviewed the Enterprise Fund draft. Mr. Gmeiner replied that the amount the enterprise will be paying is based on percent of the enterprise's year end budget to the town's budget. Mr. Orcutt doesn't think we should be using 2017 budget and 2018 salaries and it should all be the same fiscal year but isn't going to try to change it. Mr. Gmeiner thinks using the end year against the budget is fair. Mr. Gmeiner told the board we are no longer paying for human resources and looked at floor space in the office. Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the Enterprise Fund with memo and exhibits A, B, and C, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, vote carried unanimously.

Year End Financials 2017 / Fiscal Year 2018 – Business Manager

Mrs. Crory presented a draft of the year end financials and noted that the fourth quarter enterprise fund payment to the town was not made because almost all of the expense budget was spent and the overspending was mainly due to the purchase of excess meters. Mr. McCaffrey wants to make sure we budget for the meters next year. Mr. Orcutt said we will review the budget in August or early September to see what we need to transfer at the fall town meeting. Mr. Gmeiner said we should track the meters that we are getting reimbursed for. Mr. McCaffrey remembers in the Spring people we confused at the town meeting because some numbers seemed off. Mr. Orcutt knew this and there was an explanation available that people may have missed but agrees we will try to avoid confusion.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, Etc

Mr. McCaffrey asked about the next meeting date and Mr. Orcutt said tentatively for July 25th at 7:00 and we need to present master plan to get our final reimbursement from the state. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we need to discuss all of the future plans for the funding and Mr. Orcutt said not at this meeting. Mr. Orcutt discussed some items from the sanitary survey that we could work on as well as some ideas from Mr. Brackett and Mr. Knox.

Mr. Gmeiner said Mr. Knox wants more notice when plumbers etc are coming in. Mr. Orcutt said there is new permitting software but plumbing and gas permits are not part of it yet which is what Mr. Knox was concerned about. Mr. Orcutt said we go over the requirements about every 5 years but thinks we could make things more clear. Mr. Gmeiner said hopefully the software will expand to the areas in question soon. Mr. Orcutt said all online submissions go to him and he can make comments like what is the room count etc.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about Groton Inn. Mr. Orcutt confirmed that water will be billed this month and sewer was already billed. Mr. McCaffrey asked about Indian Hill and Mr. Orcutt said they are still pouring concrete. Mr. Gmeiner doesn't see him getting sewer in until Spring. Mr. McCaffrey asked if it will be major water source and Mr. Orcutt thinks it will be. Mr. McCaffrey asked about temple and Mr. Orcutt said things are slow there right

now. Mr. McCaffrey asked about Boathouse Rd. Tom said July 24th start. Mr. McCaffrey asked about Boathouse Rd connection and Mr. Orcutt said it is starting soon and we just need to oversee and inspect.

Invoices were signed for Expense Warrant 3.

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mrs. Crory to bring the last three sets of minutes to next meeting for approval.

Mr. Orcutt said next meeting will be 7/25/17 followed by the 2nd and 4th weeks of August

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:38, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____