

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting

Of the

Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, June 13th, 2017

Groton Town Hall 2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are BOWC's Chair John McCaffrey, Vice Chair James Gmeiner, Member Greg Fishbone, Water Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy and Project Manager Luis Strenck.

Mr. McCaffrey called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:30pm.

Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt said that we do not need to make any changes to the water ban at this time. Water levels in Whitney 1 are about 6" higher since the last meeting and one foot higher than last year at this time. Levels in Whitney 2 are up slightly but still are higher than this time last year. He also mentioned that we pumped less water than last May of 2016.

Badacock

Mr. McCaffrey went to CPC meeting and said that their financial advisor came in to explain how things should be done. It was noted that using SLM would be more cost effective. Mr. Orcutt asked about the funding for this project and Mr. Gmeiner pointed out that the water commissioners had agreed to contribute some funds towards the maintenance once the project was completed. Mr. Orcutt said that the first bid came in much higher than what Jim Luening was expecting. Mr. McCaffrey gave the others permission to make necessary decisions while he is away. Mr. McCaffrey wants the maximum area hydro raked and does not want to pay for any harvesting. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the bids were going to be Thursday and Mr. Orcutt said yes. Mr. McCaffrey thinks that hauling it away would be the best bet for the future and Mr. Orcutt agrees. Mr. McCaffrey said it would be ideal if 15+ acres could be hydro-raked over 3 years.

Mr. McCaffrey said GLA sent some notes out regarding another big herbicide treatment at Lost Lake. Mr. Gmeiner noted that it was less than last year and people were not happy last year. Mr. McCaffrey said it is important to realize that they will use "Clipper" this year and he will talk to GLA about a new idea tomorrow. Cost of GLA memberships would go up \$50 per family to \$200 per family on the lake possibly if we do this.

Whitney Well

Mr. Strenck joined the group to discuss the Whitney Well Project. Mr. Orcutt went over a draft copy of the contract outlining what Mr. Strenck would provide. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Mr. Strenck talked to Wright Pierce yet and Mr. Orcutt said that he will talk to them this week. Mr. Gmeiner asked if Wright Pierce was doing phase II bidding and Mr. Orcutt said yes. Mr. Orcutt went over the Wright Pierce contract and pointed out various tasks that Mr. Strenck would be responsible for such as shop drawing, financial management, and startup and training. Mr. McCaffrey added that Mr.

Strenck would be responsible for the project schedule. Mr. Orcutt agreed and said that the contractor will submit a schedule for 240 days in the specs. Mr. Strenck is ok monitoring the schedule and thinks they should have a critical path. Mr. Strenck asks for the contract to be amended to read Luis Strenck and Contractor and Mr. Orcutt was o.k. with this change. Mr. McCaffrey thinks there needs to be a balance between hitting operating targets and a concept of the operating capability within the water department and wants to make sure things run in a risk-free manner. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Mr. Strenck should attend the water commissioners meetings and Mr. Orcutt said no and that he will stay in touch and up to date with Mr. Strenck. Mr. McCaffrey asked if Mr. Strenck will be handling day-to-day operations and Mr. Orcutt said yes but it will vary depending on what is going on. Mr. Strenck suggests saying day-to-day or as needed in the contract. Mr. Orcutt will make amendments and have Mr. Haddad approve the contract. Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the contract as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded and it was voted unanimously to approve the motion. Mr. Orcutt said that Mr. Strenck will attend the Whitney Well Bid meeting. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there is a maximum amount that we can pay Mr. Strenck and Mr. Orcutt said they can calculate the amount once they know the bid amount.

Enterprise Fund Direct Cost Policy

The board members received a copy but decided that Mr. Gmeiner should review it more thoroughly before signing off. Mr. McCaffrey wants to make sure it is not changing and growing every year. Mr. Gmeiner noted that the amount the Water Department pays is based on the percentages of the budget to the entire town budget. Mr. Orcutt noted that if the town includes debt in that comparison then our budget should also include debt. Mr. Gmeiner is concerned that our budget may be growing more quickly than the town's which is increasing our percentage. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Orcutt will meet with the Town Accountant to review the Policy.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt received the results of the DEP Sanitary Survey and there were 9 deficiencies, 5 recommendations, and no violations. Mr. McCaffrey asked if there were any issues regarding water quality and Mr. Orcutt said no however on the quarterly DOC tests the manganese levels were climbing at Whitney Well 1 and 2 and if the level gets to .3 we may need to take action. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we are taking out what it is binding to during cleaning and Mr. Orcutt said we are not. Mr. Orcutt mentioned that the DEP report recommended that we should hire another operator. Mr. McCaffrey asked him what his view was regarding that. Mr. Orcutt is not sure that having 3 full time operators is necessary but would be open to the idea of sharing a DPW employee if that was possible. He also noted that we are busier in the summer time so wouldn't need extra help in slower seasons. Mr. McCaffrey was concerned that hiring another employee would affect the budget. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we have to comply and Mr. Orcutt said we have to comply with deficiencies not the recommendations.

Mr. Orcutt reviewed the asset management report from Wright Pierce which essentially thinks we can come up with another million dollars. Mr. McCaffrey asked about the rough draft and if it was way overblown from that and Mr. Orcutt said yes. Mr. McCaffrey thinks we may need to bring in a different engineering firm. Mr. Gmeiner noted that this is grant money and we need to allow the present engineers to finish the work, but Mr. Orcutt should review and suggest edits.

Financial Update

Mrs. Crory presented updated financial reports to the board which showed that the Water department's financials should be in good standing throughout Fiscal Year 2017.

Minutes:

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Bills:

Invoices were signed by the board.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

John McCaffrey _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Greg Fishbone _____ Date _____