

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, October 10th, 2017
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

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

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

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping Levels

Mr. Orcutt reviewed the water level graphs and noted that August and September were very dry months. Mr. McCaffrey noted that even though these months were dry, the rainfall for the entire year is about average so far. Mr. Orcutt also noted that irrigation systems will be turned off soon. Mr. McCaffrey asked how much water is used during fall flushing and Mr. Orcutt estimated 2-4 million gallons. Mr. Fishbone asked if we have done a full flush recently and Mr. Orcutt said we did not do one last fall because of the drought and we only did a small spring flush.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if we will be using Baddacook in the winter and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that he would like to try to use mostly Baddacook through Winter to give Whitney Well a break.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the water ban was still in effect and Mr. Orcutt said the water ban expired September 30th.

Badacook Pond Update – Chairman

Mr. McCaffrey shared a video of the hydro raking being done at Baddacook Pond. He also shared a map of the pond and showed the commissioners where the hydroraking has been done so far. He reviewed the different areas of the pond in terms of houses, beaches, boat launches, and coves. Mr. Orcutt said it is good they are hydroraking an area by one of the inlets because this is where nutrients flow in and weeds can grow if it is shallow enough. Mr. McCaffrey said they were 11 out of 15 days into the project and had 2 acres completed. The goal was 5 acres but the 15 days may not be long enough to accomplish 5 acres since some areas required more work than anticipated. Mr. McCaffrey said the area they were currently working on was across the pond from the dumpsters so they had to lug the muck across the pond to discard. Mr. Orcutt thinks the next contract should specify location of equipment to avoid spending extra travel time to the dumpsters. Mr. Fishbone asked if they will get the 5 acres done and Mr. McCaffrey thinks it will be closer to 3.5 acres this time around. Mr. Fishbone asked what the plan is for year two and Mr. McCaffrey said they are waiting to assess after the work is done in year 1. Mr. Gmeiner agrees with the areas being tended too this year and thinks that skipping one of the beach areas is ok for now.

Executive Session

Mr. McCaffrey, Mr. Fishbone, and Mr. Gmeiner broke into an Executive Session from 8:00pm until 8:15pm.

Whitney Pond Well Construction Update – Superintendent

Mr. Orcutt said there are no updates and the most recent progress meeting was cancelled. We did receive an invoice for materials that were delivered and are being stored. Mr. McCaffrey asked if everyone agreed with the schedule and Mr. Orcutt confirmed that no one objected but he will check with the contractor.

Capital Projects- Baddacook Doors

Mr. Orcutt said we need to replace the large doors at Baddacook and thinks that plywood is the best option since the frame is wood and the doors need to be 2.5 inches thick. He also thinks we should regrade the road up to Chestnut Hill. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the highway department would do this and Mr. Orcutt plans to ask them. Mr. Orcutt also said that leak detection would be starting soon and will cost about \$5000 to check the whole system.

Staffing Plan

Mr. Orcutt told the commissioners that Mr. Brackett has given a retirement date of June of 2019 which means that we have about 18 months to hire and train his replacement. Given this information, Mr. Orcutt would like to have someone hired by January 1st, 2018. Mr. McCaffrey asked if he was looking for someone with experience and Mr. Orcutt said he will keep the experience requirements open. Mr. Fishbone asked if we will reach out to technical schools and Mr. Orcutt said we can look into it. Mr. McCaffrey asked how this will affect the current budget and Mr. Orcutt said we can adjust budget as needed at the Spring town meeting. Mr. Gmeiner made sure that pay grade would be discussed with commissioners and Mr. Orcutt agreed. Mr. Gmeiner also asked if we would put this into consideration for our FY2019 Budget and Mr. Orcutt said he will. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we will still talk to West Groton about opportunities for extra help and Mr. Orcutt said we can still ask about this.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mrs. Crory and Mr. Orcutt to bring information to review FY2019 budget at the next meeting. He also asked Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Orcutt to review any fees associated with construction income.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to approve the minutes of September 26th as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

The commissioners agreed on November 14th and November 28th as upcoming meeting dates.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 9 were signed.

Mr. McCaffrey asked Mrs. Crory to bring data to show what the savings have been at Whitney Well since we began the new electric rate program in May.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager