

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, January 10, 2012

2nd Floor Lunch Room– Town Hall

Minutes

Present are BOWC Vice Chair James Gmeiner, Member Gary Hogle, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Sandy Pellicchia & Patricia Dufresne, and DPW Assistant April Iannacone.

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

Proposed Subdivision – Old Ayer Rd./Half Moon Rd. –

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that there was talk of a subdivision on Old Ayer Road on the Ayer town line. The regulations say that if a planned subdivision is within 2,500 feet of town water, the Planning Board requires that they extend the lines and connect to the town water. He has measured the distance a few different times and has come up at 2,800 feet so they would not be required. Mr. Orcutt requested input from the Commissioners to see if they might be willing to work out an arrangement where they buy the extra 300 feet of line and have the developer install the 300 feet of pipe the Water Department purchases while installing the remaining 2,500 feet to the subdivision in order to gain the customers. If the Commissioners were to spend some money on the cost of the pipe itself without having to pay for any of the excavation or installation, the money spent would be offset by the income received from the connection fees. They will net less money but at the same time gain more regular income from the development as well as open up the possibilities of more connections on Smith Street and any other developable land in the area in the future. Mr. Hogle asked where the current system ended in that area. Mr. Orcutt replied that the end of the closest line was on Smith Street on the west side of the rail trail. If the Commissioners are unwilling to look into this option, the developer would then need to look into an on-site well for its own public water system with a full time operator to maintain it. The other problem in the area could be arsenic issues due to the amount of old farm land that was there. Mr. Hogle & Mr. Gmeiner both stated that they would be willing to look into the option further when Mr. Orcutt had more information from the developer.

Baddacook Pond Pump - Engineering –

Mr. Orcutt stated that Mr. Mark Wetzel from Wright Pierce was supposed to attend the meeting this evening however he has not completely worked out the 3 scenarios that the Commissioners could consider in resolving the pumping issues. Mark would be sending him a complete memo that the board can review and will be able to be present at the next Commissioners meeting on January 24th. Mr. Gmeiner asked what the problem was that they were looking to resolve. Mr. Hogle replied that there was bad hydraulics on the pump which resulted in the pump not having enough horse power and a filter head problem.

Forest Cutting Plan – Shattuck Well Parcel –

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that Dan Cyre and Jeff Hutchins from Baystate Forestry were present to go over the forestry cutting plan for the Shattuck well parcel. He stated that Baystate Forestry was the forester recommended by the Conservation Commission as they had used them for a few projects. Mr. Cyre stated that Jeff had done an inventory of the Shattuck parcel in order to create a 10 year management plan. The last time this parcel had been harvested was 20-25 years ago when the average is usually 10-15 years. Jeff stated that they had done the inventory on the western portion of the parcel that amounted to approximately 21 acres and 13

different plots. The process consisted of counting and measuring the types of trees in each plot. They then determined which trees would be best taken down now while there was value to them rather than let them deteriorate with age. After this plan to manage the areas is created they determine a course of action and recommend what needs to be done to continue the plan for the next cutting in approximately 10 years. Mr. Orcutt also informed the Commissioners that while going through the process Baystate Forestry would also be blockading the entrance on the property with downed trees in order to restrict ATV/Snowmobile access to the site and away from the well head. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the process would make money for the water department. Mr. Orcutt replied that the department would net some money but it was also a good management practice around wells. Mr. Hoglund asked if there would be any issues that would need to be addressed with DEP before the cutting takes place. Mr. Orcutt replied that DEP saw no negative issues with this type of activity and actually encouraged watershed forestry management. Mr. Hoglund then asked what the proposed timeline was for beginning the work. Mr. Cyre replied that they could begin to mark the trees and the areas as soon as they have all approvals however they would not be able to do any cutting once we approach spring with snowmelt and wet grounds. Once they had approvals they would prepare a one year contract in order to cover all bases but once the work began it would be complete within a few weeks. Mr. Cyre explained a little about the next steps in the process as well as how the bid procedure would work to begin cutting as well as the sale of the wood. Mr. Hoglund and Mr. Gmeiner both agreed to go ahead with the process and obtaining all permits and approvals.

New Members –

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that an ad had been placed in the Herald for this Thursday and has also been posted on the Town Website looking for interested parties to apply with a Committee Interest form for the open Water Commissioner seat due to the resignation of Mr. Collins. There had been two people who had requested forms and shown interest in the seat. Once all interest forms had been received they would have a joint appointment with the Board of Selectmen for someone to fill the vacancy through the next town election in May. Any interested parties would have to look to get nomination papers and go through the election process if they intended to hold the seat for the remaining year of Mr. Collins’ term. The deadline for Committee Interest forms was going to be January 20th with an anticipated appointment date of the 23rd. Mr. Orcutt stated that he would keep the Commissioners informed as the process continues.

Superintendent’s Report –

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion regarding the topics listed on his January 10th, 2012 Superintendent’s Report. Please see attached report for a summary of those issues

With no further business before the board, Mr. Gmeiner adjourned the regular meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Iannacone
DPW Administrative Assistant

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

January 10th, 2012

1. Annual Town Report: Draft available for review and comments.
2. Unkety Brook Well Site: DEP-CERO is continuing its review of our new source application and therefore, there is nothing new to report at this time.
3. Forestry Management: Cutting Plan is being compiled by Baystate Forestry and shall present a "draft" Forest Cutting Plan to the Board of Water Commissioners at its January 10th meeting.
4. Sanitary Survey: DEP has completed its Sanitary Survey. Only 8 deficiencies were noted and all are very minor and have been corrected or are in the process of being corrected by the November 18, 2011 date. The most costly deficiency was an inspection of the Chestnut Hill Water Storage Tank by divers. This was under taken on Wednesday, December 19, 2011. No structural deficiencies were noted in the report.
5. Adopt a Hydrant: The Adopt a Hydrant Program has had its initial "kick-off" with the Cub Scouts last Friday evening, October 14th. Last year we had a total of 22 participants from the Cub Scouts doing this community program town wide (GWD, WGWS and ToG cisterns). I would like to try and double the number of participants to 40 if possible. Remuneration to the kids needs consideration by the Board (donations?).
6. Business Manager: This position has been filled by Sandy Pellecchia who started on January 3rd, 2012.
7. Senior Technician: Position has been advertised and background checks are being conducted. Appointment may come shortly through the BoS's office (perhaps on January 23, 2012).
8. Performance Reviews: All performance Evaluations and reviews have been completed and submitted to Human Resources.
9. Fiscal Year 2012 Budget: Budget was submitted on time and has been approved by the Town Manager as prepared. I will be attending the appropriate hearings of the BoS and Fin Com as needed.
10. Miscellaneous: A comprehensive leak survey is underway by an outside contractor m2 Facility Solutions. Internal employees (George and myself) have looked and a surveyed approximately 75% of the system to no avail (listening devices on fire hydrants). Problems with the Chlorine analyzer resulted in slightly higher than usual chlorine in the system over the Holiday weekend from Baddacook. Chlorine analyzer was cleaned and small tubing replaced and recalibrated by our Technician.