

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

2nd Floor Lunch Room– Town Hall

Minutes

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

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

Baddacook Pond Pump - Engineering -

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that Mr. Mark Wetzel from Wright Pierce was present to go over the 3 options that the Commissioners could choose from in order to repair the Baddacook Pond Pump. Mr. Wetzel explained that the 3 options the Commissioners had to repair the problem were to replace the pump and priming system with a more efficient pump and priming valves which would be the cheapest fix. Install a submersible vertical turbine pump with a pitless adapter pump discharge in the existing well which would be the most expensive option. The last option would be to install a horizontal shrouded submersible turbine pump in the existing well which would be the middle of the 3 options in terms of costs. After looking into all of the 3 options Wright Pierce would recommend the Commissioners go with the second option to install the submersible pump vertically as it would be the best long term installation for the raw water pumping at the Baddacook Well. Mr. Wetzel explained that if he were a Superintendent this would be the option he would push to do for his well. Mr. Hogle stated that he also believed that the Commissioners should go along with option 2. He felt it was best to pay the price now to get things done right rather than patch them and end up having to pay more later to go with this option further down the road. Mr. Wetzel also stated that it would not take long to recover the cost of the replacement as it would be more efficient and use less electricity. Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Wetzel if the Town would have to notify DEP of the repairs. Mr. Wetzel replied that Wright Pierce will notify them to inform of the project but he does not believe that they will need to file any permits. Mr. Orcutt then asked if this project could be completed before peak demand. Mr. Wetzel replied that he will look into all options for purchasing the goods and services in order to be able to complete the project using quotes rather than going to bid on the project as it would be easier to accomplish quicker and then he will report back to the Town in a few weeks. The Commissioners thanked Mr. Wetzel for his time.

Senior Water Technician Position -

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners that a new Senior Water Technician had been hired. Mr. Hogle stated that he was concerned with the hire and was also disappointed that the Commissioners were not actively involved in the hiring process. He stated that he understood that the gentleman that was hired was the only qualified applicant but even he needs to upgrade some of his licenses and he had once been terminated from his current employer. After meeting with the gentleman for what he thought was part of the interview process before finding out that he had already been hired, he thought that he was a good person but didn't feel that he was the right fit for the position. Mr. Gmeiner stated that unfortunately when the Charter was put into place it did put more of the hiring process on the Town Manager, but did agree that the Commissioners could have been a little more

informed along the way. He stated that he would discuss things with the Town Manager and the Superintendent to see if anything could have been done differently in the process before the hire had been made.

Superintendent's Report -

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion regarding the topics listed on his January 22nd, 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 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
April Iannacone
DPW Administrative Assistant

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

January 22nd, 2012

1. 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.
2. Forestry Management: A Site walk was conducted and a Forest Cutting Plan is being developed.
3. Consumer Confidence Report (CCR): began compiling the CCR for our customers and DEP. The feature story this year will be on the Groton Inn fire and how well the water system and staff responded to the fire flow requirements.
4. Annual Statistical Report: received notification that the Annual Statistical Report is due by March 23, 2012. This is filed electronically, but will be time consuming effort for the Business Manager and me.
5. Water Treatment Plants: Baddacook filtration system has been optimized by George with the sand filter run times being doubled. George undertook this after some discussion with me. Heating issues seem to be resolved for now – but, I am looking into having a Trane representative come and look at the system as recommended by John Murphy. LMI representative to come next week to assist us in making some adjustments to the chemical injector pumps (stainless steel heads & feed lines).
Plumber assisted George and I at Whitney with some minor plumbing problems we experienced with the analyzer feed line. George received some training from a Hanna representative on the Chlorine/pH Analyzer. Some minor adjustments were made.
6. Senior Technician: Position has been advertised and background checks are being conducted. Appointment made by the Town Manager with confirmation by the BoS on February 6, 2012.
7. 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).
George and I both responded to a small fire at the Housing Authority on Lowell Road (no sprinklers).