

Groton Water Commission

Regular Meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners

Tuesday, February 12, 2013

2nd Floor Lunch Room – Town Hall

DRAFT Minutes

Present are BOWC Chair James Gmeiner, Member Martin Schaefer, Member Gary Hoglund, Water Superintendent, Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager, April Iannacone.

Mr. Gmeiner called the regular BOWC meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Baddacook Pond Well Pump Install Bid Results

Mr. Orcutt updated the meeting on the 2 bids that were received for the well pump installation at Baddacook Pond. The 2 companies that submitted bids were Waterline Industries and Barbado. The lowest bid that came in was from Waterline at a price of \$27,400.00 for installation. He also noted that both companies have done work for the town in the past. Mr. Orcutt recommended a vote to award the job to Waterline. Mr. Hoglund asked how much the anticipated cost would come to. Mr. Orcutt originally expected total purchase and installation to be \$40,000 to \$45,000, however with current bids for installation in hand it looks to be closer to \$50,000. Mr. Hoglund asked if that \$50,000 included everything necessary to complete the job. Mr. Orcutt mentioned that part of the expense would include Tim MacGregor doing wiring and Kurt doing SCADA programming. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there was any reason to not go with the lowest bidder on this installation. Mr. Orcutt responded that there was not any reason not to go with them as they had been reliable in the past. Mr. Gmeiner asked if the Commissioners needed to vote to award the contract. Mr. Orcutt responded affirmative.

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to accept the bid from Waterline Industries for \$27,477 for the installation of the Baddacook Well Pump. Mr. Schaefer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Summer Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt explained that a vote needed to be taken regarding the Summer Water Conservation Program to get the process rolling with the State. He recommended that the program be kept the same as in the past with a mandatory water conservation restriction. Mr. Orcutt also mentioned that letters were sent out last year to multiple residents who were watering on unassigned days of the week and he would like to re-mail to those same people as early as possible before this season's watering time begins.

Mr. Hoglund made the motion to approve the Mandatory Conservation Program as drafted. Mr. Schaefer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Warrant for the Spring 2013 Town Meeting

Mr. Orcutt informed the Commissioners of the need to discuss the amount of funds that should be transferred from the Water Enterprise Fund Surplus to the Fiscal Year 2013 Water Department Operating Budget which would be voted on by the Town on the Special Town Meeting. Mr. Schaefer questioned what the average spring transfer has been in the past. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Hoglund agreed that it could be as high as \$100,000.00, but usually came out to be about \$50,000.00.

After discussion, it was determined that Mr. Orcutt would create a draft article to submit as a placeholder on the Town Meeting Warrant in the amount of \$50,000 to the Town Manager and then they would vote on an exact amount necessary for the transfer at a later date closer to the publishing of the Warrant.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Orcutt led a brief discussion of the topics on his Superintendent's Report. Please see attached copy of this report for the items discussed.

Mr. Orcutt also informed the Commissioners that he had been told by Bill Strickland that the Great Ponds Advisory Committee (GPAC) would be submitting a notice of intent to perform weed harvesting procedures at 5 specific areas of the Baddacook Pond for June, July and August. Mr. Schaefer asked if there was an issue with this timing of harvesting. Mr. Orcutt replied that the GPAC was working with the Division of Fish and Wildlife with regards to a condition they had wanted to instill due to the fish and turtle habitats and the temperature of the water. The Commissioners discussed their position on the matter and requested that Mr. Orcutt put together a letter as soon as possible documenting their position, their reason behind their position and that they would request that the GPAC strictly adhere to the conditions set by Fish and Wildlife and avoid any area directly in front of the well.

Mr. Hoglund made a motion to adjourn at 7:55. Mr. Schaefer seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

April Iannacone
Business Manager

James Gmeiner _____ Date _____

Gary Hoglund _____ Date _____

Martin Schaefer _____ Date _____

Superintendent's Report

February 12, 2013

1. Unkety Brook Well Site: The Planning Board has advertised a Public Hearing on the proposed Zone II at Unkety and is preparing the Article for the Spring Town Meeting Warrant.
2. Forestry Management: Waiting for a meeting with the State Forester and wildlife specialists regarding endangered species at Baddacook. Hazardous tree removal around the building/well will not be an issue for removal by the State Forester.
3. Water Facilities: We received two bids for the new pit-less adapter well pump for Baddacook. Maher Services was the low bid received for \$23,100.00. The second low bidder was D.L. Maher for \$26,972.00, The installation contract is due January 24th 2013. The conduit has been installed. Whitney Pond Well #2 continues to have "background" bacteria levels detected in the sampling. The most recent "plate" count on the 2nd day of sampling was 39 (not a big deal but it shows the presence of something growing albeit very minor). There have been no fecal bacteria detected in any of the sampling. Staff re-chlorinated the source for a third time. Chlorine sat in the well over the three day weekend. Sampling to re-occur on 1/22 and 1/23. Skyfields Drive Booster Pump Station is running, but is not cycling or jockeying back and forth between the two pumps. Bill Anderson called to look into the programming.
4. Annual Statistics: Compiling documents for the Town's Annual Report and for the State's Annual Statistical Report. I am also jumping ahead with the preparing the Annual Consumer Confidence Report with Summer Conservation being the major theme. A draft has been already sent to DEP-CERO for review and approval.
5. Fiscal Year 2014: Budget was submitted to the Town Manager on time, reviewed by him and his Finance Team and approved as submitted. No issues from the BOS or Fin Com are anticipated at this time.
6. Billing Software: Northern Data Systems (NDS) is working with April. It is anticipated that the system will be ready to go live March 1st. April has scheduled training with them on a weekly basis.
7. Miscellaneous: Attended a Conservation Commission meeting that dealt with storm water issues given by Savos Danos. Also attended a meeting with the PB consultant, CEI Engineers, regarding the application of 319 Storm Water Grant for Lost Lake. The Lost Lake Sewer Committee met to discuss septic issues in and around the lake.