

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, June 19th, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunch Room

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Croy.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm.

Whitney Pond Well Construction & Mass DEP Gap II Grant

Mr. Orcutt said the board signed the invoices at the last meeting but he will not pay them until the grant is approved. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we are holding any of the payment back and Mr. Orcutt said 1% will be held. Mr. Orcutt said DEP will have the final approval. Both wells have been running in auto mode and the levels have been good. Mr. Orcutt wants to take an iron & manganese test to see if there has been an improvement. Mr. McCaffrey suggested that we notify the public of the project and Mr. Orcutt said he will ask the Groton Herald to write something up.

Mr. Orcutt noted that yesterday was the peak day of the month for electric rates (and could be annual peak). Mr. McCaffrey said that although the peak is important, our priority is having water available to the customers, so we will not always be able to turn off the wells. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we got the lower electric rates the whole year and Mr. Orcutt said that we missed 3 months which could have been due to holidays. Mr. Orcutt said we can add Baddacook Well to the new electric rate plan anytime and may want to add now. Mr. McCaffrey agreed that we add Baddacook Well since the worst case scenario would be the same rates that we have been paying.

Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt said that we missed our May rainfall average by about two inches but the water levels are good. Mr. McCaffrey said he would like to let residents water more if we are capable. Mr. Orcutt agrees but also has a quota from the state that we cannot exceed. Mr. Orcutt also said the state issued a warning about lack of precipitation but Groton's levels still look alright. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we are still in a drought and Mr. Orcutt believes we are. Mr. Orcutt has been monitoring irrigating and has sent violation letters to some residents.

Reorganization of the Board of Water Commissioners

Mr. Gmeiner nominated Mr. McCaffrey as Chairman and Mr. Orcutt noted there will be no change as long as Mr. Fishbone approves. It was voted to appoint Mr. McCaffrey Chairman and Mr. Fishbone as Vice Chairman, subject to Mr. Fishbone's approval.

### Baddacook Pond

Mr. Orcutt said that things are moving along the new company, SES, who outbid Solitude this year. Mr. McCaffrey recapped what Mr. Luening would like the water department to contribute, which would be to encumber \$10,000 from this year's budget and contribute an additional \$10,000 next year. Mr. Orcutt reviewed the SES bid and the budget that the CPC currently has. Mr. McCaffrey suggested that we do not encumber \$10,000 this year because the water budget is running low, and we can discuss the \$10,000 contribution in FY2019 at a later date. Mr. Gmeiner added that we should not contribute unless all CPC funds are used up. Mr. McCaffrey agreed that we will want to know what our contribution will be used for. Mr. Orcutt said he will let Mr. Luening know that we will not encumber \$10,000 this year and will ask about what future contributions would be used for.

### Rocky Hill – Storage Tank Site

Mr. Orcutt said there is nothing new to report.

### Other Business

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the changes in rates and fees have made a difference and Mrs. Crory will collect some data for the next meeting.

Mrs. Crory asked the board to move funds from general expenses to wages because we had some additional wages paid that weren't accounted for in the last transfer. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer \$4,000.00 from General Expenses to Wages, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Orcutt thinks we should advertise to engineering firms and it will take about two months to go through the request for qualification process. We will then choose a firm to work with our department.

Mr. Orcutt filled in Mr. McCaffrey on a few items that he missed while he was out including the leak at the temple on Christmas Day. He also told him that the Groton Inn is complete except for a few final touches on the restaurant. Indian Hill will be paying the water department \$58,250 in connection fees in July. Ann Cole still holds the license agreement on Boathouse Rd. Redskin has had one connection.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of May 22nd, 2018, Mr. McCaffrey seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 25 were signed.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 8:35pm, Mr. McCaffrey seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager

June 19th, 2018