

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, July 24th, 2018
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

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

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

Whitney Pond Well Construction

Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney I had failed on Friday evening and Mr. Macgregor and Mr. Knox had to go to the well to fix it. It was back online by midnight. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we will charge our engineering company for the failure and Mr. Orcutt told him that we do have a warranty if we would like to submit bills for the labor costs. Mr. Gmeiner thinks that we should charge them for Mr. Macgregor's time since he is not one of our employees. Mr. Orcutt said we will look at the invoice when we receive it. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should be concerned with the new VFD and Mr. Orcutt told him it is the first one that Eaton has made on their own, but they have been very responsive with any kinks we have ran into.

Mr. McCaffrey asked how long our warranty is and Mr. Orcutt believes it is 1 year. Mr. Orcutt has begun preparing request for qualifications for engineering services. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the Whitney Well project has been paid for and Mr. Orcutt explained that the project was \$350,000 but we received and \$83,000 grant which helped. We will pay \$50,000 a year until the debt is paid off. Mr. McCaffrey asked Mrs. Crory to find out interest on a state note.

Mr. McCaffrey suggested that something be published in the paper regarding the Whitney Well improvements.

Water Levels

Mr. Orcutt presented graphs that showed a large spike in Whitney I, most likely due to March precipitation. Mr. Orcutt said the aquifer levels have been great (at about 660 gallons per minute) but would like to get to 700 gallons per minute. Mr. McCaffrey would like to find out what the maximum capacity would be. He would also like to know what Whitney I and Whitney II can do when running together.

Baddacook Pond

Mr. Orcutt presented a map of the weed harvesting that has been completed so far. Mr. McCaffrey checked on last year's work and sees improvement this year. Mr. Orcutt said he suspects this is a 4 year

program but they may not have adequate time for their plan this year due to the National Heritage Program making them stop the work on October 15th. Mr. Orcutt said he still thinks that the water department will be able to contribute \$10,000 and Mr. McCaffrey agreed. Mr. Fishbone thought we were only contributing \$10,000 if they need it, or if they are at least optimizing the funds they have. Mr. McCaffrey agreed that we will review the work and make sure they are efficiently using the funds. Mr. Fishbone mentioned that we discussed helping with the ongoing maintenance and Mr. McCaffrey said we did discuss that and would look into it down the road. Mr. McCaffrey explained that the goal is to starve the nutrients.

66 Gratuity Rd – 40b Project

Mr. Orcutt explained that the project would be a friendly 40b apartments and/or condos. S.L. Mullaney Engineering is proposing two large buildings with 45 units each and 2 bedrooms each. Mr. Orcutt presented a map and reviewed how the water connections could be made. Mr. Orcutt also mentioned that each dwelling unit would be charged the standard \$4250.00 1” service connection fee which would be 90 units at a cost of \$382,000. Mr. McCaffrey asked what impact this would have on our capacity and Mr. Orcutt thinks 2-3%. We would need a new well if our capacity increases by 20% or more. Mrs. Crory was asked to look at how many homes are connected to water.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the high water and sewer charges would deter them from connections and Mr. Orcutt doesn't think it would be a deal breaker but does suspect that the number of units may be decreased. Mr. McCaffrey asked if this connection would enable other residents to want to connect and Mr. Orcutt said that this connection would be exclusive.

Mrs. Martin explained that her property abuts the land being discussed and she is in the early stages of building a new home on her property. She was planning on installing a septic system and private well, but is wondering if this project would impact her plan or possibly force her to connect to water. Mr. Orcutt doesn't anticipate that Board of Health would give her any issues because they can't stop her from her plans based on speculation that a nearby connection will be made.

Other Business

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to approve the minutes of July 10th, 2018, and Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 6 were signed.

Mrs. Crory left the meeting at 8:43pm.

Per Mr. Orcutt, Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:50pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager

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