

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, November 13th, 2018  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Lunch Room

**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt (note the Water Superintendent is taking the meeting minutes)

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:31pm.

250 Forge Village Road – Abatement Request

The Water Superintendent gave a brief explanation of the situation at #250 Forge Village with regards to a leak Mr. Eric Rossol had on his irrigation system for his property. Mr. Rossol then went onto explain that for the past two summer he has been chasing numerous leaks on is irrigation sprinklers and on his outside water fountain/fall. His irrigation consists of 13 zones plus a separate zone for the fountain. Last fall Mr. Rossol was given a break on his water bill after finding out he had a leak in a few of his zones. He thought he had corrected the issues this past spring, however, he did not realize he had a leak on his fountain – he believes that this leak has been identified and corrected this Fall. The Board of Water Commissioners and Mr. Rossol agreed that they would bill 140 water units at the Domestic Tiered Rate Structure and 69 water units at the Domestic Tier #1 rate. The Board made it clear that they would not consider an abatement or rate reduction in future years due to faulty irrigation on the property.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping Levels

Mr. Orcutt told the Board that water levels were recovering with all the recent precipitation. Commissioner McCaffrey wanted to see the graphics for the well. Mr. Orcutt promised to have them at the next meeting after he had time to review the data and correct the errors based on the faulty probes. Precipitation was significant for the Fall months as well as August. The heavy precipitation and potential winter precipitation should put us in a decent position for next spring and summers pumping season. Mr. Orcutt will also be cleaning the Whitney Pond Wells in March of 2019. This should also help the wells and aquifer.

Baddacook Pond Update

Mr. Orcutt said that he and Jim Luening are planning on having a neighborhood discussion on the 2018 – year #2 of weed harvesting and hydro-raking. This will occur on either November 28<sup>th</sup> or December

5<sup>th</sup>. There is a possibility that the 2<sup>nd</sup> CPC application may have sufficient funds for a two year work cycle. Tom was to remind Jim Luening of requesting additional funds in the Weed Harvesting Committee Budget with a target amount of \$50,000.00.

#### Whitney Pond Well Construction Update

Mr. Orcutt stated that the Groton Herald did a wonderful story regarding our Well Project Upgrade and that this news article was submitted to the state as the “final” report for the grant reimbursement. The Commissioners asked that the article be placed on the Water Department’s web site and be posted on other social media outlets. The Water Superintendent will follow through on this.

#### Financials / Budget 2020

The Water Superintendent rolled out a “draft” of the Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget. Mr. Orcutt explained that there are a lot of adjustments that were made to salaries and wages as well as inter-governmental charges. This is all due a retirement and new staffing as well as the collective bargaining agreements. The 2020 Operating Budget is essentially level funded with some minor adjustments to some expense line items and the addition of a new line item “Capital Fund” at \$50,000.00. Mr. Orcutt stated that the short-term and long-term Capital Budgets had no immediate needs to be addressed in this year’s operating budget.

#### Other Business

Mr. Orcutt then proceeded to hand out the three responses to the GWD’s RFQ. The companies that submitted RFQ’s are; Wright-Pierce, CEI, and BETA engineering. Mr. Orcutt requested that the Board read each of the applicants and then at the next meeting decide the course of action the Board should take in selecting a firm for the water department.

No meeting minutes were approved at this meeting

Invoices for Expense Warrant 11 were signed.

Next Meetings: November 27<sup>th</sup> & December 11, 2018

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:35pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas Orcutt  
Water Superintendent