



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: January 16, 2019

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall/First Floor

Members Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Others Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager and Judy Anderson

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

436 Main Street – Sewer Connection

Nothing new at this time, Mr. Orcutt thought Mr. Thibeau might be looking into a septic system.

Dave Moulton - Four Corners Sewer Update

Mr. Orcutt informed the BOSC that we are still waiting on the proposed plans for the pumping station.

Four Corners Sewer Takeover

Mr. Orcutt spoke with Mr. Hadadd about taking over the Four Corner Sewer District and he said it would require a vote between the two boards to transfer ownership. Mr. Orcutt also mentioned that the outstanding Engineering bill has been signed by Mr. Haddad and will come out of the Four Corners Enterprise Fund Budget and will be processed on this Expense Warrant EW16.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to take over the Four Corners Sewer District and Enterprise Fund as of January 28th, 2019 pending the Select Board Vote Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner informed the BOSC that he had a conversation with Mr. Nephew and told him the BOSC has decided to pay as we go for the Vac Truck. Mr. Nephew said he will discuss it with Mr. Brinkman and put something together for the new IMA. Mr. Gmeiner said the new IMA would need to be reviewed by the Select Board and would need Town Counsel to approve. Mr. Orcutt asked if that would be the new Town Counsel would approve or would it be Mr. Doneski? Mr. Bouchard asked if we come across an issue in the future could we ask Mr. Doneski? Mr. Gmeiner said this is something we need to find out. Mr. Orcutt asked if we should ask the Select Board if we can use K&P for legal issues and Mr. Gmeiner replied that he will speak to Mr. Haddad regarding Town Counsel.

Proposed Policy on Expanding District

Mr. Orcutt presented the revised policy on Expanding the District for the BOSC to review and feels that advertising in the paper for two weeks is sufficient. Mr. Gmeiner thinks that we should notify direct abutters along with the notification in the paper. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we request the proponent shall notify all direct abutters to the expansion at least (10) days prior to the hearing date by certified mail and shall submit said receipts to the Sewer Commission on or before the hearing date.

Mr. Bouchard asked how the decision is made to expand the district and Mr. Gmeiner replied that at the hearing we will listen to the demands and determine if it will pass. He also added that the Planning Board has statues and procedures and we are not the ultimate decision makers. It will still have to go to Town Meeting and they will vote on it.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to accept the amended Proposed Policy on Expanding the District Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Sewer District Expansion Policy:

It shall be the policy of the Groton Sewer Commission that any request by a resident and/or business corporation seeking to expand the municipal sewer system to serve their property that is currently not served by municipal sewer shall request that the Sewer Commission hold a public hearing on said request. This policy shall include the Center Sewer District and the Four Corners Sewer District. The Public Hearing shall be advertised for two (2) consecutive weeks in a local publication. The proponent shall notify all direct abutters to the expansion at least (10) days prior to the hearing date by certified mail and shall submit said receipts to the Sewer Commission on or before the hearing date. The applicant or the representative shall reimburse the Sewer Commission for all costs associated with advertising and other direct costs by the Sewer Commission. The applicant will be required to attend the public hearing. This policy shall become effective on February 1, 2019.

FY20 Budget

Mr. Orcutt has submitted a place holder to Mr. Haddad on behalf of the BOSC for the spring Town Meeting. Mr. Gmeiner suspects we will need to do a transfer for Engineering costs and IMA costs. Mr. Gmeiner stated the budget costs are not what we thought and that the Enterprise Fund is down to \$416K.

The BOSC is anticipating a rate increase and Mr. Orcutt suggested that the numbers be run with a potential increase of 5%. Mr. Gmeiner said we should look at the connection fees and PPA's and suggested we take a look at the set up for Four Corners Sewer District connection fees and consider

incorporating that for the Center District. This would eliminate capacity charges but add connection fees. Mr. Orcutt said this would make the two Districts the same and Mr. Gmeiner added it would also generate additional revenue for the Center District.

Mr. Gmeiner asked that we reach out to Pepperell and get the payment information on the 20-year bond.

Mr. Orcutt mentioned the Select Board has a hearing on the budget on January 26th, 2019 and asked the BOSC if they would like to attend regarding the Pepperell Plant Upgrade fund? He suggested 50% of the Plant Upgrade and Mr. Bouchard said the town now pays 25% and you want the Town to pay 50%? Mr. Gmeiner replied that the number of overall costs were higher than what they last sent. Mr. Orcutt thinks that the Engineering oversight probably was in there. Mr. Gmeiner said we need their annual number and do we ask the tax payers to share in that cost. Mr. Gmeiner asked how many rate payers we have and we would need that number to determine the cost.

Other Business:

Next Meeting – February 6th, 2019

BILLS SIGNED

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-19, Expense Warrant (EW-16)

MINUTES:

January 2, 2019 minutes were approved

ADJOURN –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:00pm, Mr. Bouchard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant

APPROVED:
