



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: March 6, 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 and Lauren Croy/Business Manager

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 P.M.

Rate Hearing Usage Fee Regulations and Wastewater System Costs

Mr. Gmeiner stated that the Center Sewer District is increasing with people and capacity is increasing. His concern is trying to work out a system for expansion of the district, that does not result in us receiving less money than we already do. For example, the proposed 40B is a 45-unit dwelling, currently we would be getting the PPA fee of $\$6,500.00 \times 45 = \$292,500.00$ plus 90 bedrooms $\times 110/\text{gpd} \times \$6.58/\text{capacity} = \$65,142.00$ for a total of $\$357,642.00$. He suggested that we consider changing the regulations for the Center Sewer District and use the Four Corner Sewer Calculations. That way each dwelling unit would be equivalent to 330/gpd three bedroom rather than the 110gpd/per bedroom and that would eliminate the capacity charge ($45 \text{ Units} \times \$8,000.00 = \$360,000.00$). Mr. Gmeiner said currently for an expansion beyond the district we look at one-year water usage and convert to sewer units and multiply by $\$6,500.00$ and do a look back a year later. Mr. Orcutt suggested we do away with the look back and go by Title V guidelines. Mr. Gmeiner added that if we make each dwelling 330/gpd it will equal out.

Mr. Orcutt asked if someone is in the sewer district and has a single family with 4-bedrooms and paid the PPA and now wants to convert to a 2-family with a total of five bedrooms with two on one side and three on the other, how would we handle that (new connection fee plus a bedroom)? Mr. Gmeiner replied that now we would just get the extra bedroom ex: $110 \times \$6.58 \text{ capacity} = \723.80 . According to Four Corners regulations a 4-bedroom has flows of 440gal/day $440/330=1.3333$. The ERU (Equivalent Residential Unit) is 1.3333. The ERU shall be multiplied by the connection fee ex: $1.3333 \times \$8,000 = \$10,640.00$. Mr. Bouchard replied that he feels that the $\$8,000.00$ number would keep us consistent and after reviewing the numbers they seem the same.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner said Mr. Rafferty responded in an email that Mr. Brinkman is officially drafting the IMA and there seems to be no major outstanding issues. Mr. Rafferty did ask if we are interested in purchasing more capacity from Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner feels that we have sufficient capacity at this time and there is no need to purchase more, due to the upgrades it would require. Mr. Bouchard asked if we need to purchase more capacity in the future would we have an issue. Mr. Gmeiner replied no, but if we were to purchase it now it may be at a reduced cost. Mr. Orcutt asked what upgrades would be necessary and if it would be a system upgrade at Nod Road. Mr. Gmeiner replied yes and that is covered under Task 2 of the contract for an NTE fee of \$27K (see pumps and length of pipe in Mr. Rafferty's email)

Sewer District Expansion Guidelines

Mr. Bouchard will send out a revised copy of the Sewer District Expansion Guidelines for review.

GDRHS Pumps

Mr. Gmeiner said in Mr. Rafferty's email he asked if he should prepare a new agreement for the GDRHS or use the on-call agreement since the BOSC will be invoicing the school directly. The BOSC was in agreement to have Mr. Rafferty move forward with the on-call billing and we will direct bill the school.

Forge Village Road – Sewer Connection

Mr. Orcutt stated that Mr. Catalano has reached out to the BOSC about connecting to sewer and we are in the process of coordinating a date for him to come before the BOSC to discuss.

Mr. Orcutt also provided a map of the businesses in the area that will be required to connect to the sewer. He stated that Crossroad has paid their connection fee and that Mr. Moulton has paid the connection fee for one development. Mr. Gmeiner asked that we generate a letter including the mandatory sewer connection bylaw to all notify all the owners in that area.

FY20 Budget

Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Crory for the amount that would be needed to cover the FY19 operating budget and her response was \$70K for the upcoming I&I work and \$50K for treatment costs, so a total of \$120K. Mr. Bouchard thought the I&I costs were around \$80K and said that would bring the transfer up to \$130K. Mr. Orcutt agreed because the police details were not added in original number for the I&I work.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to transfer \$130,000.00 for the FY19 Operating Budget, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the vote passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Mr. Gmeiner informed the BOSC that Mr. Rafferty received the plans from Mr. Dillis and it shows an equipped pump station for Mr. Moultons development. Mr. Orcutt said he has not received a copy and he asked Mr. Gmeiner if the plans were signed. Mr. Gmeiner was unsure and asked Mr. Orcutt to confirm that with Mr. Rafferty. Mr. Gmeiner also said we need to find out if the Homeowners Association is set up and if there is a Maintenance Agreement in place. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to speak with Mr. Grossman of the BOH and find out what is required for maintaining a shared system.

Next Meeting – March 20th, 2019

BILLS SIGNED

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for FY19, Expense Warrant (EW-19)

MINUTES:

No minutes were approved at this meeting

ADJOURN –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:40 P.M., Mr. Bouchard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant

APPROVED:
