

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting
Of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, July 23rd, 2019
2nd Floor Lunch Room

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Michael Ohl and David Roman of Comprehensive Environmental.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:38pm.

Whitney Well Pond Updates – Mike Ohl

Mr. Ohl recapped the top two treatment options which are piping Whitney Pond water to Baddacook treatment plant, or building a new treatment plant at Whitney Well.

Mr. Ohl distributed draft site plans for Baddacook Well if we were to treat the Whitney water there. He said the current filter room could be duplicated and the additional filters would be the same size. He estimates the total treatment needed would be 1300 gallons/minute. Mr. Orcutt asked if we could use the two existing filter and Mr. Ohl said no. We would be able to rotate the filters depending on when we were doing backwashes. Mr. McCaffrey asked if the new filters will require us to have larger lines and Mr. Ohl said it would not and that we have adequate flows. Mr. McCaffrey also asked about pipe size and Mr. Roman said we will reuse some and install more. Mr. Orcutt said we will need 12-inch pipes from Whitney to Baddacook and for the finished water. Mr. McCaffrey asked how long it might take to run the new pipes to Baddacook and Mr. Ohl estimates 6 months.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the Conservation Committee will have any issues with this plan and Mr. Orcutt said some of the work would be within 50 ft of the pond so would need to discuss with them. Mr. McCaffrey asked how the expansion would be built and Mr. Ohl said it was budgeted to match the current structure which would be masonry and brick.

Mr. McCaffrey asked about the time frame. Mr. Ohl reviewed a draft of a conservative schedule which fixes the problem as quick as possible but adheres to our financial restrictions. Mr. Orcutt asked if we would entertain an SRF loan or conventional and Mr. Ohl said the SRF often is 2% interest but has more requirements. Mr. Gmeiner added that there are other hidden costs with SRF. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we could lay the piping first to help levels before the project is completed. Mr. Orcutt added that it could help elongate our schedule if it was possible.

Mr. Roman presented a map of surrounding towns that are treating for manganese and Mr. McCaffrey said it would be helpful to see who has recently had to begin treating manganese.

Mr. McCaffrey asked the board if this discussion helped them decide on an option. All of the board members agreed that piping the Whitney Pond water to Baddacook treatment plant appears to be the best option.

Mr. McCaffrey asked how we should notify the town and Mr. Orcutt said we will attend a Selectboard meeting to give them an update and press will be there. Mr. Gmeiner reiterated that we need to talk to the Conservation Commission as well, and Mr. Orcutt will talk to them. Mr. Ohl will work on a summary memo and on a letter for Mass DEP.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if we will need to pay anything this year/up front to get the process started and Mr. Orcutt said we may need to, and reminded the board we have \$50,000 of unallocated funds in our budget this year. Mr. Gmeiner said that by looking at the drafted schedule, we may need to transfer additional funds from reserves this year. He added that we may want to transfer in the fall so that it is available come springtime.

Mr. Fishbone asked what the pilot testing is. Mr. Orcutt explained that Comprehensive Environmental will bring a trailer to the site and run various scenarios to ensure the plan will work.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping

Mr. Orcutt said that we are seeing a spike in water levels and also have been pumping a lot of water. Mr. McCaffrey asked how much water was being pumped during the hot weekends and Mr. Orcutt said about 18-20 hours per day. Mr. Orcutt also said the water conservation information was published in the Groton Herald.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt said the warrant is open for Fall Town Meeting and we may need to make a transfer from our enterprise fund. However, we do have a \$50,000 unallocated budget line item

Mr. Fishbone brought up the leak that occurred in town hall and asked if there is any way to set up notifications in the future. Mr. Orcutt explained that our office monitors the leaks during the week but we would see if there was a way to set up leak alerts on the weekend. He believes there is a way to do this.

Mr. Orcutt went to a Conservation Commission meeting to ask them if it was ok to dig within 50 ft of Whitney Pond because they had to clean out a clogged pipe and they will allow it.

Mr. Orcutt told the board that recent retiree, George Brackett, would be doing inspections of David Moulton's project in the Four Corners area.

Mr. McCaffrey would like to look at July and August to see pumped volumes of water versus kilowatts used to compare to previous years to see if the pumps are more efficient now. Mrs. Crory will gather this data for an upcoming meeting.

Invoices for Expense Warrant 3 were signed.

Next Meetings: August 13th, 2019

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 9:14pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory
Business Manager