

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Tuesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019  
Assessor's Meeting Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
**Minutes**

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Thomas Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory, and CEI Senior Engineer Michael Ohl, and Engineer David Roman.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 6:39pm.

Water Conservation Program – Well Levels & Pumping

No updates.

Baddacook Pond Well – Intake Pipe

Mr. Orcutt said that the pipe in the cistern at Baddacook Well was being replaced and it would be offline for 3-4 days.

Water Rates and Fees

Mr. McCaffrey said that PFA testing would be next and asked what would happen if we did test positive for PFAs. Mr. Ohl said that it would probably depend on the level detected and that Mass DEP is currently working on the requirements. Mr. Ohl also explained that we would need to treat the manganese first before removing the PFAS because the manganese would clog the filter medium quickly requiring replacement far too frequently. The PFA treatment could be added on to the manganese treatment so it does not change our current plan.

Mr. Gmeiner said we need to make sure that we are able to transfer \$150,000 out of our reserve fund to pay our engineers so that we can get the manganese treatment started as soon as possible.

Some Selectboard members mentioned the idea of cost sharing for the manganese treatment. Mr. Ohl asked why they would consider that and Mr. Gmeiner explained that clean water benefits the whole town in terms of public buildings, restaurants etc. and that there had been cost sharing with the sewer.

Mr. Gmeiner believes we should get the pipes in as soon as financially possible. Mr. McCaffrey said that there could be some cost savings by waiting. Mr. Ohl thinks that the community would rather see the problem resolved quickly. Mr. Gmeiner agreed that the cost savings don't justify the waiting period.

The board discussed the financing of the treatment plan and will plan to institute a quarterly capital charge on water bills. The amount is to be finalized at a future time. A rate increase may also be needed to maintain our general operating budget increases.

Mr. McCaffrey asked how long the greensand filters should last and Mr. Ohl said at least 30 years should be expected. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should consider a 30-year SRF loan and Mr. Orcutt said he would not be in favor of that for the whole project but maybe for the pipes only, since they last longer.

Mr. Ohl asked why the board would institute a capital charge rather than a rate increase and Mr. Orcutt explained that you know how much you will take in with a capital charge.

#### Other Business

Invoices for Expense Warrant 9 were signed.

Next Meetings: October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 7:43pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory  
Business Manager