

Groton Water Commission  
Regular Meeting  
Of the  
Board of Water Commissioners  
Thursday, May 6th, 2021  
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

**Minutes**

Present are Vice Chairman, Greg Fishbone, Clerk, Jim Gmeiner, Water Superintendent, Tom Orcutt, Business Manager, Lauren Crory, Senior Technician, Stephen Knox, from Environmental Partners Bob Rafferty and Dave Patangia, and from CEI. Michael Ohl.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 10:05am.

Whitney Pond Manganese Treatment, 30% Design Review, Working Session.

Mr. Patangia said he received Mr. Orcutt's comments on the plans and will respond to those comments.

Mr. Orcutt asked about adding a door near the electrical room. They can do that, Mr., Patangia responded. Tom Orcutt said no awning would be needed.

Mr. Orcutt commented to make sure the contractor gets a trench permit from the town before breaking ground.

Mr. Patangia discussed where stormwater will go and said it will be treated and infiltrated back into the ground and will meet stormwater regulation requirements.

Mr. Patangia said a few trees need to be cut down and the tree warden has no problems.

Mr. Ohl said Whitney Well III will have some type of shed so they may want to shift the planned curved line of evergreens to the right to shield it.

Mr. Patangia said they will correct the cover sheet and adds name of staff and board.

Mr. Orcutt asked why would we would demo all of the chemical feed system – when we could moth ball the equipment so that we could add chemicals and start up these pumps if there was something catastrophic and they needed to be used again. Mr. Ohl and Mr. Patangia said it would get messy to get electrical to the old chemical feeds. Mr. Patangia said it is typically demolished but then left with a small corporation where someone could come and inject chemicals. Most towns take it out because older equipment etc. Mr. Ohl said there is no intended use of that space. The engineers discussed how the electrical will be set up to the old chemical feeds. Mr. Ohl said he could ask the electrical engineer if there could be a switch to disconnect power to the plant and switch back to way it is today. Mr. Rafferty said one of the generators could be able to send electric

to current chemical feed. Mr. Patangia said depends on what utility company (GELD) will allow. Mr. Patangia said will leave as is for now because won't have construction plan impact.

Mr. Knox and Mr. Orcutt said the bulk KOH tank needs to be dealt with. Mr. Patangia said they will flush it out.

Mr. Patangia brought up Mr. Orcutt's question about the size of tanks and Mr. Orcutt said he didn't know if the chlorine tank was too large – doesn't want chlorine to go flat. The chlorine tank is sized at 905 gallons and Mr. Knox said it probably is ok based on what we run at Baddacook, Mr. Orcutt agreed and said he would rather have the extra room in tank.

Mr. Ohl said to make sure the tank can fit outside of the door and Mr. Rafferty said it will.

Mr. Orcutt asked about the dehumidification system and Mr. Patangia said that any humidity and condensation will drain to the floor. Mr. Gmeiner said Stoughton had small portable dehumidifiers. Mr. Patangia said Stoughton has tanks underground – and thinks for us it would be more of a maintenance headache. Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Knox agreed with him.

Mr. Patangia reviewed the details of the exterior of the building and said Mr. Orcutt would like it to be red or light grey, but can choose final color later. The windows and doors are to be bright white. Mr. Patangia recommends keeping windows next to barn doors for natural light into the control room / can see driveway from there.

Mr. Orcutt wants a sign saying "Groton Water Department" Est 1897 wants lights above the barn door. He also requested a cupola with weathervane on top.

Mr. Ohl said that the barn doors are not functioning but he said could make doors bigger and put window in the barn door for a better visual. Mr. Patangia will ask and will make notes to add fake black hardware.

Mr. Patangia said there was a question of disposing Baddacook residual at this property and Mr. Orcutt said no don't worry about it and that he and Mr. Ohl will be working on it.

Mr. Patangia brought up external bypass discussion and showed where raw water comes in and where the bypass could be and water would go right, straight out to the distribution system instead of left. Mr. Knox would like it if we could have external valves in the ground. Mr. Ohl said they would have to replicate what is on the inside and would need an airgap. He also said DEP won't allow just a closed valve.

Mr. Ohl said he has seen systems with spools and valves. Mr. Patangia said they could do it but would be inside facility. He also said could always go hydrant to hydrant as a back up to get water in the distribution system. Mr. Patangia said he could move that bypass assembly into a vault to be accessible outside. Mr. Patangia said they will be meeting with DEP in the next few weeks and will see if they push back at all.

CEI wants to be included in DEP discussions.

Mr. Ohl had some questions and comments regarding the plans.

He would like to have a projected worst-case scenario (for double manganese levels). He would assume half filter run time then current projections if levels double and wants to double check if that sounds right. Mr. Patangia will add it to the table.

Mr. Ohl said Environmental Partners should design to look at total flow for the chemical feed and rely on the operators to adjust the chemistry based on the water quality. Mr. Patangia said groundwater is pretty consistent.

Mr. Knox asked how much contact time they will have and Mr. Patangia said about 15 seconds.

Mr. Ohl wanted to check on flow meter sizing and what will flow range be through the facility. Mr. Orcutt said typically they try to slow down flow rate in winter to not tax the aquifer. Mr. Knox said yes as long as still getting same efficiency. Mr. Rafferty said between low and high is about double.

The group looked at the architectural floorplan for the breakroom / kitchen corner. Mr. Knox would like small shower if possible. They could add to the toilet area would be bumped out and kitchen would be smaller. Mr. Knox doesn't want to reduce kitchen space so no shower needed. Mr. Gmeiner thinks they should find a spot for the shower. The Engineers discussed and ultimately decided they can make the bathroom and kitchen squares and get rid of the L shape by moving into the control room a bit.

Mr. Ohl said the plumbing drawings show floor drains by filter – would Environmental Partners be open to those connecting to the backwash basin. Mr. Patangia said DEP won't allow it because anything that touches the floor has to go to sanitary station / not lagoons. If concerned about flooding out the tight tank – can put trench drain that goes to a sump when it fills up. Mr. Rafferty said they can add to the agenda for the DEP discussion. Mr. Patangia said sample taps can go to lagoons, just any water that touches ground has to go to sanitary station.

Mr. Ohl asked about the dehumidifier in the ceiling and wants to make sure it is accessible for maintenance.

Mr. Ohl said in terms of the Waste Station, the preference would be to have submersible pumps so that the pumps could fully pump the basin if needed for inspections or cleanings.

Mr. Patangia asked if the pump stations in the yard need to be raised and Mr. Knox doesn't care. Mr. Rafferty thinks lifting up 6 inches or so would be good incase turf grows in a bit.

Mr. Patangia asked the group if they had any questions.

Mr. Gmeiner said that at Stoughton, the backwash was automated. Mr. Knox said they don't need that because they don't do them as often. Mr. Gmeiner would like to see the plans all in the same direction (north facing north etc.). He said he had concerns about some of the floor drains being a trip hazard. He also suggested adding more outlets to avoid the use of many power strips.

Mr. Fishbone asked where the shower will drain and Mr. Patangia said it will drain to the tight tank. Mr. Fishbone asked if it would fill up too quickly and Mr. Knox added that they will not be

using the shower very often so does not think it will be an issue. Mr. Rafferty said they will size it appropriately to catch the shower drainage.

Mr. Fishbone asked if the backup electricity to Whitney Wells I & II could come directly from Route 40. Mr. Patangia said the main power will be to the treatment plant, the generator will feed plant if loss of line power, and will have another line from the treatment plant to Whitney I & II as an additional back up. Mr. Gmeiner added that we also have a portable generator.

Mr. Fishbone asked if the plant would be ready for solar panels on the roof. Mr. Patangia said the design right now has provisions and the electrical room will be ready for it, so minimal work would be needed. He also said we would not need more space.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 11:55am, Greg seconded, motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

Business Manager