

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 12th, 2023
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory and Bob Rafferty, and Tyler Schmidt from Environmental Partners, and Michael Ohl from CEI.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:32pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Manganese Treatment Plant

Mr. Schmidt said the contractor has installed piping, valves, poured concrete, is installing chemical feed systems, have been backwashing waste pumps, the lagoons and basins are being worked on, they are installing insulation jackets, miscellaneous plumbing, conduit and wiring, wires valves, mezzanine ladder, and working on roof penetrations for HVAC. There have been 390/395 submittals returned and 67/67 RFIs returned the change orders are at about \$900 and the first change order will be processed soon. The July and August pay requisitions are in which is about 75% of contract. Mr. McCaffrey said 80% of the solar panels are made in China although we will try to get US made, we will accept good quality Chinese made solar panels if needed to stay on schedule.

Mr. Fishbone asked if there were any issues with the rain and flooding. Mr. Schmidt said there are no big issues. Mr. Orcutt asked about the concrete for support pipe, which is planned this week.

Mr. Schmidt said that the MCC has been swapped out for the three-motor starter and the delivery date is mid-October. It is omitted from the contract and it is a \$0 cost change since the MCC was delayed past the contract date. Mr. McCaffrey asked about Whitney Well 3 and Mr. Schmidt said there is a VFD that will be reinstalled in the Treatment Plant.

Mr. Schmidt said that the tie in will be discussed on the 20th (subject if Whitney Well III can be ran). They are waiting on Whitney Well III test results.

Mr. Orcutt said we are on schedule and on budget.

Whitney Pond Well #3

Mr. Orcutt and Mrs. Crory will be working on final payments and closing out the project.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

There is a town meeting article to spend up to \$150,000 on a new SCADA system.

September 12th, 2023

Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget

Mrs. Crory has not received the certified free cash numbers yet and will forward it to the commissioners when received. She said the September quarterly billing was about \$20,000 less than last year due to the wet summer months.

PFAS

Mr. Schmidt prepared four fact sheets on different medias that will be sent over. One option would require a pilot study as it is not technically approved by MA DEP.

Mr. Orcutt needs to know if we need an article for PFAS design on the fall warrant.

Mr. Orcutt said that there was a meeting on Monday with a working group from Groton, Dunstable, the High School, Mr. Orcutt, Mr. Haddad, Mr. Brinkman of Pepperell and the best approach collectively was a regional solution which is Groton expansion as Phase I up Chicopee Row which will terminate on North St. Phase II is regional which will connect the three towns.

Phase II will cost \$10.4 million from Pepperell but the other \$3 million is subject to further negotiations between Groton and Dunstable. Phase I will be shared by Groton and Pepperell. Phase I will supply clean water to the school next year. The Phase II connection (Jersey St to North St and Groton St) would be turned over to Pepperell system and have a closed valve. It will also be permitted as emergency interconnection that will connect all three systems.

Other Business

Mr. McCaffrey said that Mr. Fishbone worked on the agreement and got the final signatures for the 500 Main St project (Groton Farms).

Next Meeting is September 26th, 2023.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of July 18th as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of July 26th as presented, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:21pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

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