

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, July 16th, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. Fishbone called the meeting to order at 7:50pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Mr. Orcutt said we are pumping a lot of water and expects water sales to look good. On July 2nd, there was scheduled work to take out plastic pipe and put in stainless steel pipe at Baddacook Well. One end is glued and the glue had to sit for 24 hours, then there was a problem with the pump so it was fixed the following week. Mr. Orcutt believes that the water sample tested positive for e. Coli due to the well water being stagnant during this time. The high temperatures also could have caused or contributed to the problem. The system has been retested and we still have total coliform but no e. Coli. There will be a deep clean done on Monday and they will work on getting it back online. Environmental Partners is helping work with DEP to get it back online as soon as possible. Mr. Fishbone asked what the steps are to put the well back online. Mr. Orcutt said the deep cleaning needs to be done as well as 5 samples with total coliform count so it is expected to be out of operation for at least another week. Total coliform needs to get down to zero and its currently at 2.

Mr. Orcutt said the PFAS level in Whitney Well III is slowly dropping and the blended level is still acceptable. He is asking to keep using Whitney Well III at the altered ratio for the time being. Mr. Fishbone asked if the loss of Baddacook is a problem and Mr. Orcutt said it is not right now and Whitney is doing all right.

FY 2024 Budget Overview (Business Manager)

Mrs. Crory reviewed year end numbers and Manganese Debt Schedules. The year end was similar to the forecast. Income will be short about \$21,000, salaries and wages over about \$10,000, general expenses over \$14,000, and debt having a remaining \$80,000 towards the manganese fund. The Manganese Debt Schedule will be finalized next June when the engineering is permanently bonded. Mrs. Crory showed debt schedules showing a potential slight decrease in fee this year, or waiting until FY28 to be safe. This will be reviewed in more depth at this year's rate hearing.

GDRHS Water Project (Superintendent)

Mr. Orcutt applied and received a million-dollar grant towards the GDRHS Water Main Extension project and applied for the full amount on the federal level. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there was any progress on the interbasin transfer and Mr. Orcutt said they are still working on it.

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Groton Farms Update (Superintendent)

Mr. Orcutt said that Five Oaks Construction Company was the lowest bidder on the Groton Farms/Taylor St project.

Other Business

Mr. Orcutt will have an article for Cow Pond Brook Rd project and for an Enterprise Fund transfer if needed.

Next Meeting is August 13th, 2024.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of June 25th, 2024, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Fishbone made a motion to adjourn at 8:25pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

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