

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, March 19th, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy, and Water Technician Rob Maloney.

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

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Whitney Well I has been cleaned and has recovered about half of its production (about 100 gallons a minute more). They added acid to the well for a few days and they used Baddacook during that time. Baddacook will be cleaned next week. Everything will be ready online for flushing the second week in April. Minor repairs to the pump were needed at Whitney Well I.

The sludge at Baddacook was cleaned and brought to Whitney. Mr. McCaffrey asked if that is temporary. Mr. Orcutt said to save money, they pump the sludge and bring it to Whitney and let it evaporate and the manganese dries out to powder and mixes with soil. It would cost twice as much to haul it off. Mr. McCaffrey asked if it will end up back in our wells and Mr. Orcutt said it should not.

Mr. Orcutt said they are finalizing things with R.H. White. There will be a meeting on Thursday with the engineers to look at the floor and minor punch list. On April 2nd they will work on the fire alarm issues. The solar panels are working but don't have a relay switch yet to show data. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we should withhold money and have floors done ourselves. Mr. Orcutt said they will hold back the final pay estimate and have 5% retainage. Mr. Orcutt said if we were to find another contractor for the floor, it is a difficult process. Mr. Orcutt said you get into legal matters and contractual obligations. Mr. Orcutt hopes they will look at it and come to a resolution. Mr. Maloney thinks they will get it done with R.H. White's instruction. Mr. Gmeiner asked how many times they have done the floor and Mr. Orcutt said twice.

Mr. Orcutt said he is meeting with Environmental Partners about the high school and will be having a progress meeting for 500 Main St, as well as a kickoff meeting for hydraulic analysis on Cow Pond Brook Road. Mr. Orcutt said the high school is in the engineering phase and they cannot sign any SRF contracts until later this spring. Theoretically they cannot start construction until July or August. Engineering documents cannot go out until there is a loan commitment. Mr. Orcutt hopes the project will be started in the fall and will have more of an idea on the progress on Thursday. Mr. McCaffrey would like brief updates on this project.

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Mr. Gmeiner asked about a doorbell and Mr. Orcutt said they can ask about it. The fire department has a key.

Mr. Maloney said the dehumidifier is running much less now.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if the aquifer is better and Mr. Orcutt said it is and he will send out reports.

Financial Update

Mrs. Crory said she reviewed the budget today and they should be all set for Spring Town Meeting. There is no Spring Transfer needed. She added that income is picking up slightly and will be monitored.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adopt the Odd/Even Conservation Program that we adopted for the summer for 2023, which will be effective from May 1st – October 1st, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if Whitney Well III is pumping to waste yet. Mr. Orcutt said that the way things are wired, Whitney III cannot be running 24/7. Mr. Orcutt said that Whitney III is being run about 7 hours a day 5 days a week at 425 gallons per minute and will be going up to 450 gallons per minute.

Mr. Orcutt suggested ending the manganese filter credit program July 1st but offering Manganese sampling to families with infants until October 1st, 2024. The commissioners agreed on him administering this end to the program.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27th as amended, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

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