

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, September 17th, 2024
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

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

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

Operational Updates (Superintendent) and Capital Projects

Mr. Orcutt said they are still pumping a lot of water and have kept up pace since June. The well levels seem to be fine. Baddacook Well is back online with temporary 4-log approval due to the E.coli hit. They are waiting for a final resolution on that to come. The technicians have been playing around with the start up to meet the correct chlorine residuals. The plan is to use the clock in the computer to turn it on and make sure it is where it should be and have an end time on the clock after about 12 hours. It will no longer run off of tank levels; it will be hourly. Saturday and Sunday will get pulled in after they feel comfortable with the Monday-Friday schedule and levels.

Mr. Orcutt said that the Whitney Well Treatment Plant's final parts from RH White have arrived and will change the check valve. There will be a planned shut down for 4-5 hours. The technicians will use emergency backflow as needed – Mr. Maloney was able to use it last week.

Mr. Orcutt said he is finishing up lead and copper inventory and should submit to DEP this week which is about 30 days early. The final lead and copper sampling will be in October. Letters will be going out soon.

Mr. Orcutt reported that the Taylor St construction is moving along at a good pace and the pipe on Taylor St is done. On Thursday and Friday they will be working in the right of way of 119. Next Monday night they will begin making connections across 119 and the railroad underpass, then back to 500 Main St. Mr. Gmeiner asked where the line comes in off of Taylor St and Mr. Orcutt said it is at the driveway of 452 Main St.

Mr. Orcutt said the GDRHS project is out to bid and the pre-bid meeting is next week and the bid opening will be two weeks after that.

Mr. Fishbone asked if the 4-log will be a permanent change and Mr. Orcutt said it will be extra paperwork but it is better for public health because anything would be caught before it gets to the customer.

Mr. Fishbone asked about water consumption and aquifer levels. Mr. Orcutt said levels look good and he is not concerned. He will send an email out with the levels. There has not been much recharge but seems to be ok.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the aquifer levels and Mr. Orcutt said they have a good balance going especially without Baddacook online for some time.

Financial Updates

Mrs. Crory reviewed the FY25 free cash number which was certified at \$407,198. This was close the estimated year end free cash. Mrs. Crory said that about \$48,000 of this should be reserved for the Manganese Fund to be used in FY26 and the remaining \$359,198 can be considered as true free cash.

29 West St; Abatement Request

A customer at 29 West St received a bill for 132 units and typically average around 16 units. The owner discovered a leak in the hot water tank as well as a leak in the shower plumbing. He made the repairs and has been upgraded to a Badger meter with leak alerts. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve an abatement of \$343.20, subject to the customer signing up for leak alerts, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Other Business

Another abatement request for 97 Hollis St Unit #3 was submitted today. Usage is typically less than 6 units per quarter but the most recent bill was 45 units due to a leak in the hot water tank. Mrs. Crory stated that the 45 units billed at the lowest tier would result in an abatement of \$56.35 and that the leak has been resolved. Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve an abatement of \$56.35, subject to the customer signing up for leak alerts, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The next meeting is October 15th, 2024.

Minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

September 17th, 2024