

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, January 28th, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, and Business Manager Lauren Crory, and Ginger Vollmar from the Sustainability Committee.

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) and Capital Projects

Mr. Orcutt said they are still working on the SCADA system for Baddacook which looks like a mid-February start date. They are finalizing the check valve replacement at the Whitney Well Treatment plant and hoping to get them in next week. The green sand filter issue is being discussed with Michael Ohl from CEI. Environmental Partners is working with the filter supplier trying to get them to replace the filter as it is under warranty. They may try to come in and pilot again because are pushing back that they need to replace the media. They are saying silica is the issue and nobody has heard of it and its not piloted.

Mr. Fishbone asked what the change is to the SCADA. Mr. Orcutt said the system was 20 years old and when the new system was put in at the Treatment Plant, they had to update it at Baddacook also.

Mr. Orcutt said the High School water project is underway and the contractor is getting 300-400ft per day done. They may bring a second crew in. The August 15th target date looks good. Mr. Orcutt has had a lot of calls about water connections along the route. Mr. Orcutt said the water to the high school is the priority and the other services and Dunstable are secondary. Mr. Fishbone asked if this will be for both the school and irrigation and Mr. Orcutt said it will be both. Mr. Gmeiner said few construction areas on Hollis St looked like zig zags. Mr. Orcutt said they had to do that to avoid the current water main. Mr. Gmeiner said they have been moving well since they got past the cemetery.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if 500 Main was done and Mr. Orcutt said it was completed.

Accept New Truck Bid

Mr. Orcutt said he received a \$55,000 bid from Gervais Ford but there is a 30-day turnaround on purchase which he needs to review with them in further detail.

Vote to Approve 2025 Water Conservation Program

Mr. Orcutt recommended the board votes the odd/even water conservation program for the upcoming season. It will then be monitored and adjusted as needed. Ms. Vollmar asked what the next level of conservation would be. Mr. Orcutt said they would really start to enforce it or would take the next steps and would limit days. He could also ask the Selectboard to help spread the word for the extra conservation efforts. Mr. McCaffrey said if the drought level increases, they follow the state guidance to react accordingly. Mr. Orcutt said they watch it and try to stay ahead of the state guidelines also. Mr. McCaffrey and Mr. Gmeiner noted that there have been complete water bans, as needed, in the past. Mrs. Vollmar asked what happens to people with private wells when there is a total ban and Mr. Orcutt said we cannot prohibit private well use.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to vote the odd/even watering system which runs Tuesday-Sunday, excluding Monday, with watering from 12am-9am and 6pm-9pm, commencing conservation June 1st-September 30th, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Updates

Mrs. Crory will be working on a budget review as well as a recommendation for a Spring Town Meeting budget transfer to support the FY25 Budget.

Other Business

The next meeting is February 18th, 2025.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of December 10th as written, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and Mr. McCaffrey abstained.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the minutes of December 17th as written, Mr. Fishbone seconded, and Mr. McCaffrey abstained.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 7:53pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory