

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2016 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:34 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, Clerk, Thomas Hartnett and Business Manager, April Iannacone. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

Discussion of Pepperell and Sewer Agreement

Mr. Bob Rafferty, from Environmental Partners, was in attendance to present his review of the current 30 Year Pepperell & Groton Sewer Agreement, which is up for renewal, and give the BOSC his recommendations. A key point Mr. Rafferty made had to do with limits on capacity. He noticed that if Pepperell has an allocation cost based on an annual average, Groton should not be held to a 1 month limit. He recommended that the BOSC look in to determining the best way to calculate the cost-share between the towns that would be equitable to both. Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Rafferty about an Opt-Out Clause in the Agreement, should one become necessary. Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that the current one is 30, most are 20, then 5 and 5 (not only the OM part) and said that it is supposed to be reviewed yearly. In addition, Mr. Rafferty also recommended looking into and testing Groton's contribution to the loading of phosphorous, to which, Mr. Gmeiner added that Groton doesn't want to get hit with 25% of plant upgrades if the loading percentage is far less than that. The general consensus of the BOSC was that they would like to be more included in major developments and decisions being made by Pepperell that affect will them. Mr. Gmeiner requested that Pepperell come to a meeting in the near future. Mr. Orcutt said he would contact Joe Jordan.

Discussion Grinder Pump

Mr. Gmeiner questioned the BOSC on the progress with regard to acquiring a Core for failing Grinder Pumps. Ms. Iannacone reported that in emails between Ms. Stevens and Ellen McColgan of F.R. Mahoney, it had come to light that having a spare core might be more involved than originally thought. As it turns out, there are 3 generations of indoor models and they are not all backwards compatible as the outdoor cores are. (See attached). The email also introduced a couple of new series of cores that are identifiable according to their Serial Numbers. Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that they need to determine which Core will serve the greatest number of homeowners with failing Grinder Pumps. He suggested having Henry Albro of F.R. Mahoney coming back in to a BOSC meeting to further discuss and clarify the issues. Mr. Orcutt suggested getting a spreadsheet from Carmen DePhillipo that lists the Grinder Pump customers and Serial Numbers of the Pumps they currently have. Ms. Stevens will contact Mr. Albro to invite him to the next BOSC meeting.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Orcutt presented a Memorandum from the BOSC to the Town Manager that included a placeholder for the dollar amount that the Sewer Department would request to transfer from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Surplus to the FY15 Sewer Operating Budget at the upcoming Spring Town Meeting (see attached). Mr. Gmeiner asked that Ms. Iannacone prepare the appropriate financials for the first Sewer Meeting in March/2016, so that a dollar amount could be approved by the BOSC.

The BOSC decided to delay putting The 30 Year Agreement in a Warrant Article for Spring Town meeting until the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Orcutt said he would let Pepperell know.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner reminded the BOSC that a Rate Hearing should be scheduled for the 3rd Week in March and to publicize it.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday February 17, 2016 @ 2:30 PM.**

BILLS SIGNED

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-16, Expense Warrant (EW-17).

MINUTES of January 20, 2016 – Mr. Hartnett made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes Mr. Orcutt seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 PM. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens, Water & Sewer Assistant