

**GROTON SEWER COMMISSION
MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2016 MEETING
2:30 PM – TOWN HALL**

MINUTES

Commission Chair James Gmeiner called the meeting of the Sewer Commission to order at 2:30 PM. Also present were Vice Chair, Thomas Orcutt, and Clerk, Thomas Hartnett. Minutes were taken by Ruth Stevens, Water/Sewer Assistant.

11 Station Ave –Abatement Request

The BOSC reviewed and briefly discussed an application for Sewer Abatement (attached) which was submitted by Beaudane Properties. Mr. Orcutt explained that the property had been vacant, but the heat was left on so that the pipes would not freeze. Apparently there had been a boiler leak that went undetected. It happened to become evident when the meter was read. The Owner, Mr. Webber, was called to alert him of the potential problem. The Water/Sewer Department inspected the area and found that the water seeped out and was absorbed through a dirt floor in the basement. Mr. Gmeiner questioned Mr. Orcutt if he was confident that the water had not gone through the Sewer Line, and Mr. Orcutt assured him that it had not. Mr. Orcutt then made a motion to abate the \$5614.25 in Sewer charges. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

DEP I&I Plan Discussion

Mr. Gmeiner informed the BOSC of a notice from the Mass. DEP for all Sewer System Authorities to develop and implement a plan to control Inflow & Infiltration (I&I) to the sewer system. This plan and analysis will be due to the Mass. DEP by **December of 2017**. Mr. Orcutt said that he would contact Bob Rafferty of Environmental Partners to prepare a report and give the BOSC a scope and fee on it. He did not believe that the cost should be an issue. The BOSC agreed to go with that plan of action.

Grease @ Partridge Berry Woods

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that he has noticed over the years the repetition of charges on the Pepperell Bill for the use of “the Jet”. He recalled a problem that had happened in the past where a large amount of sludge backed up into someone on the sewer line’s home in the PBW area. Specifically, there is a property off of West Street that seems to have grease at their property at least once a year. During discussion of the area, the question of whether or not a house on Mill Street and a house on Farmer’s Row was connected to Sewer came up. Mr. Orcutt said that he did not recall that they were, but would look into it. Mr. Gmeiner thought it would be a good idea for the BOSC to send a letter to those PBW customers who have Sewer alerting them to the costly results of the improper disposal of grease. He made some suggestions of what he would like the letter to convey. Ms. Stevens agreed to draft a letter. Mr. Orcutt said he would check the status of Stone and MacDonald in the PBW area with respect to Sewer.

Inter-municipal Agreement Discussion

Mr. Gmeiner referenced a previous BOSC meeting with Mr. Rafferty and the Pepperell DPW in which he thought Mr. Rafferty was going to look at a different way of figuring costs and provide the BOSC with information on it. To date, they had not received it. Mr. Orcutt mentioned changing the billing rate based on switching to flow percentages. He noticed that there is a spike in the Spring when they are in the process of closing out the fiscal year. It was suggested that perhaps an incentive program from Pepperell or a newly redefined cost allocation system could work. Mr. Orcutt recommended that Mr. Rafferty attend a future BOSC meeting. Mr. Hartnett asked when the Inter-municipal Agreement was due. Mr. Gmeiner said it was due by the Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Gmeiner also recalled that Pepperell was looking to see which way Groton wanted to go on the subject and said that he would contact Mr. Jordan of Pepperell DPW. He asked that Mr. Orcutt contact Mr. Rafferty regarding a Summary Report, for which Mr. Rafferty is doing the sampling. Mr. Gmeiner asked that he also check on Copper and Phosphorous. In addition, Mr. Gmeiner commended Groton Sewer for its good I&I program and to keep on it, as it is in decent shape.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner asked for an update on the 37 Longley Road progress. Mr. Orcutt explained that, as previously thought, there was an issue with glacial til and rock. He said it could be excavated, but not directionally drilled. He said he was working with Takashi Tada from the Con-Com on researching the property, but that it was difficult finding a good map. Mr. Gmeiner asked that Mr. Orcutt check with Mr. Rafferty thinking that he might have looked at it. He suggested that the BOSC reach out to Mrs. MacInnis after more information is obtained.

Next Meeting – The next meeting of the BOSC will be held on **Wednesday, June 1, 2016 @ 2:30 PM.**

BILLS SIGNED

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-16, Expense Warrants (EW-24).

MINUTES of May 4, 2016 – Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to approve the previous meeting's minutes, Mr. Hartnett seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM. Mr. Hartnett seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Stevens,
Water & Sewer Assistant

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