



Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

**Town of Groton Sewer Department**  
173 Main Street  
Groton MA 01450

**Date:** October 17, 2018

**Time:** 2:00 P.M.

**Location:** Town Hall/First Floor

**Members Present:** Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

**Others Present:** Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager, Judy Anderson, Robert Rafferty, Joe Jordan & Dave Boucher

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The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

**Meet and Greet with Pepperell**

Mr. Boucher the new Chief Operator for the Pepperell Wastewater Treatment Facility introduced himself to the BOSC and informed them he would be replacing Carmen Defillipo. Mr. Boucher asked the BOSC if he could get approval to replace the existing gate with a large double gate at Nod Road. He said this would allow access to the pump station wet well for cleaning by the Vac-Truck and would allow for emergency access for the trailer mounted bypass pump. Mr. Boucher said he would like to get this gate installed sometime in late November. Mr. Boucher said he sent an email to the BOSC with a quote from Gate City for \$2,525.00 and he would like to get this approved today.

Mr. Bouchard asked what would be involved and Mr. Orcutt stated that this would be replacing the single gate with a vehicle gate. Mr. Gmeiner said the wet well is behind the pumps and the new Vac-Truck will not fit thru the existing gate. The BOSC was in agreement that replacing the existing gate with a larger gate to allow access would make sense.

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to permit the Town of Pepperell to install a new gate at Nod Road and Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Jordan informed the BOSC that the pumps at the GDRHS are problematic and we should discuss changing them out. He said recently there have been a lot of extra call ins and feels replacement is necessary. Mr. Orcutt suggested that Mr. Jordan work up an estimate and a cost to replace so we can submit to the School Committee. Mr. Boucher said there was a quote done about five years ago and he suggested working up a new quote using different pumps (Submersible). Mr. Gmeiner asked that they submit an email explaining the situation. Mr. Jordan asked the BOSC if this is something they should be working on with Mr. Rafferty to let him know what we are thinking and Mr. Gmeiner replied yes. Mr.

Orcutt asked if a Scada upgrade would be required and Mr. Jordan said the alarms are sufficient, only one alarm triggers. Mr. Bouchard asked if it was the design or a pump issue and Mr. Jordan replied that the pumps are wrong for this application. Mr. Jordan said he would arrange a time to discuss with Mr. Rafferty.

### **436 Main Street**

Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Rafferty if he had any rough numbers to get a sewer connection to the street. Mr. Rafferty replied that the drilling is not expensive if you don't have ground water contamination. If there is ground water contamination you would be required to haul it away and that becomes expensive. Mr. Rafferty informed the BOSC that a Utility Abatement Measure would be required and the form can be found online and he also said that a Mass DOT would be required. Mr. Rafferty asked if they had a contractor in place and Mr. Gmeiner replied that we are only responsible to get the connection to the property line. Mr. Rafferty asked if they had an easement and asked the BOSC if they would go right to the asphalt driveway going to the Conductor Lab. Mr. Rafferty also suggested that directional drilling would be the way to go and would require prevailing wages, which would be about \$5K to do in a day. Mr. Orcutt asked what the total cost would be and Mr. Rafferty said last time was \$25K - \$30K. Mr. Orcutt asked that due to cost and environmental issues should we suggest a sum toward a septic system. Mr. Rafferty said he can work up a memo outlining the costs and it can be compared to septic costs. Mr. Gmeiner stated that \$3K for a grinder pump or more and he is hearing \$25K - \$35K and his guess would be around \$40K. Mr. Orcutt asked Mr. Rafferty to put together a memo outlining the fees and the permits that would be required.

### **Dave Moulton – Four Corners Sewer Update**

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Rafferty if any stamped plans have been submitted yet and Mr. Rafferty replied not yet, but Stan Dillis should be getting them to him soon.

### **Four Corners – Sewer Take Over**

Mr. Gmeiner asked if there has been any new information yet and Mr. Orcutt replied that he thinks the bond is in place and we should be getting connection fees soon.

### **21 Lovers Lane – Sewer Connection Update**

Mr. Orcutt said there is no news from the State yet.

### **Pepperell IMA Update**

Mr. Rafferty met with Pepperell and they discussed the electric costs at the pump stations and Groton's (2) stations are same as all their (5) stations. Mr. Rafferty also mentioned they would like money towards the new Vac-Truck, but there is a possibility of purchasing extra capacity at a one-time discount rate and this could possibly off set the contribution for the Vac- Truck. Mr. Gmeiner asked what they are proposing and what would be the formula on capacity purchase. Mr. Bouchard asked if we can pump more sewer and said we are only pumping 140,000 Gallons on a high month now. Mr. Bouchard asked Mr. Rafferty if the discount was on flow and he replied it would be on the purchase of capacity. Mr. Gmeiner said last time Groton purchased capacity it was \$6.58/per gallon. Mr. Orcutt asked what is our monthly flow and Mr. Rafferty said 27%. Mr. Gmeiner added that in August we were at 29% and

September 20%. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Rafferty if we would have to go through the state to purchase capacity and that last time they had Groton do a comprehensive study to purchase more capacity. Mr. Rafferty said two things have changed, Pepperell has more capacity to purchase and the permit for sewer extension is now gone. Mr. Orcutt stated he does not want to overpay or increase sewer costs, he feels at this time we do not need extra capacity, that we are not using what we have and maybe we should consider doing more I&I. Mr. Gmeiner added that the opportunity to purchase capacity at a discounted rate may go away, but not the option to purchase. Mr. Gmeiner asked what the cost is for the Vac-Truck and Mr. Orcutt said he thinks \$300K and Pepperell would want 25% of that. Mr. Bouchard asked if the capacity cost was a one-time cost or annual cost. Mr. Gmeiner said it's a one-time to purchase. Mr. Bouchard said so the cost would go up, but flows would stay the same and Mr. Gmeiner replied debt service would go up. Mr. Orcutt suggested the BOSC ask the Planning Board members to come back in to discuss the master plan of the town to see if there is a need for more capacity.

### **Review Groton's Wastewater Flows (Pepperell)**

No discussion at this time

### **Proposed Policy on Expanding the District**

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt what he would be proposing for this policy. Mr. Orcutt replied that he would like anyone who wants to expand the district be required to advertise in the paper for two weeks and to have to notify the abutters and anyone who would like more than 1,000 gallons in capacity be required to advertise and have a public hearing. Mr. Gmeiner asked would you notify abutters along the sewer line or the ones abutting the property and who would pay for the advertisement. Mr. Orcutt said he is comfortable with running the ad for two weeks and have the fee's to advertise paid by the resident, he feels we can start there and tweak as we go. Mr. Gmeiner said he would like some time to think about including anyone asking for 1,000 gallons in capacity and Mr. Orcutt replied that was just a starting number. Mr. Gmeiner feels that if the district is expanded beyond the bounds then we advertise and if it does go to the paper all boards should be notified by email.

### **Other Business:**

Mr. Rafferty will draft up a memo for I&I work for the DEP and he feels it should be done this spring. He feels the area by Nod Road is an issue.

**Next Meeting** – November 7th, 2018

### **BILLS SIGNED**

One set of Bills were signed at this meeting for FY-19, Expense Warrant (EW-10)

### **MINUTES:**

August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 & October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2018 were approved

### **ADJOURN** –

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:45pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey  
Water & Sewer Assistant

**APPROVED:**

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