



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: June 5th, 2019

Time: 1:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall/Second 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 and Bob Rafferty

The Meeting was called to order by Thomas Orcutt at 1:12 P.M.

Cravens – Sewer Connection

They are scheduled to attend the next BOSC meeting

Bob Rafferty – Update

Four Corners Moulton: Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that everything looks good at the Moulton Development. He also said he witnessed the test of the pump station and everything was ok. Mr. Rafferty did say the standby generator is not up yet, but we will not see any flows for a while until the houses are sold.

Mr. Orcutt told Mr. Rafferty that Mr. Midgley asked for something in writing for the connection of sewer. Mr. Rafferty said we had capacity for the development when the startup house was approved at town meeting. Mr. Orcutt said he would contact Ayer and let them know how many homes were added and that the capacity was in the IMA.

I&I

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Rafferty the status of the I&I and the CCTV work. Mr. Rafferty replied that 25K/GPD of added flow, he also stated that of now the CCTV report show 6 manholes leaking where the lateral comes in. Mr. Rafferty explained when you have 6-8 leaking you can seal the top hats at the fittings and he will provide a cost for this. Mr. Orcutt asked if these were all located on 119 and Mr. Rafferty replied yes. Mr. Gmeiner asked cost wise what would be involved and Mr. Rafferty said they are working on an approach and they still have another day of CCTV work.

Mr. Rafferty provided a chart showing peak infiltration/inflow and stated that the green/blue was Nod Road and the Rail Trail, he feels that somewhere the Rail Trail Connects to Main is where the added flow is coming from. Mr. Bouchard asked if the peak infiltration/flow chart he provided was from 2014 and Mr. Rafferty replied yes, but the monthly flows are about the same scale wise. Mr. Orcutt suggested the fields be checked because they had cross drains going across the ball fields and Mr. Gmeiner added that it's not as evident now, but in the early spring you can see the clay pipe running across. Mr. Rafferty suggested when they look again, they should be looked at. Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that before the next meeting he will provide them with a report and pricing.

Mr. Gmeiner asked about the capacity study and Mr. Rafferty replied that they looked at where we could get more capacity and we came up with upgrading the pump station. He also added that if we were to get rid of some of the I&I that would allow more capacity and also told the BOSC that the pumps needed to be upgraded. Mr. Orcutt asked if the wet well changes and Mr. Rafferty replied yes and maybe on the far end would be half of million-dollar upgrade. Mr. Orcutt asked if they would replace the wet well or build another one and Mr. Rafferty said they would build another one and join them. Mr. Rafferty said that the pumps sit above the wet well and draw water up, so you would want bigger pipes and less friction. He also stated that submersible pumps are an option. Mr. Rafferty also told the BOSC that upgrading the pumps would require more service, generator, control panels etc. and another thing to keep in mind is whether or not they would fit in the building. Mr. Gmeiner asked if Mr. Rafferty had a number of gallons we can handle without this next step and his response was that you are at your number and the pumps are maxed out. Mr. Rafferty did say that if some I&I was removed that would help and if that 25K/GPD of I&I was removed you would get longer life on pumps. Mr. Bouchard asked if the pump upgrade would be interim and the ultimate would be the \$500K upgrade. Mr. Rafferty said you can change the motor on pump, but the ultimate would be a new wet well. Mr. Orcutt suggested we fix the I&I and maybe do more CCTV work when we get more wet weather. Mr. Rafferty also added that some of the manholes have corrosion and those will need to be fixed.

Rate Hearing Usage Fee Regulations and Wastewater System Costs – Continued Hearing

Ms. Crory ran some numbers with using \$6,000.00 as the ERU and compared to the current method the Center District uses. It showed adding (1) residential bedroom using the ERU method would be $110 \div 330 = .33 \times \$6,000 = \$2,000.00$ and with the current method it would be $110 \times \$6.58 = \748.00 . Mr. Orcutt said so if you want to build a 4-bedroom home in District it would cost \$8,000.00. Mr. Gmeiner said outside District dwelling units need residential living units and would be \$6,500.00 (PPA), but if it's like The Mill-Run Condo units and 3-units within the condo, they would be charged one PPA and would depend on the use over the year. Mr. Bouchard asked why that would only be one PPA and Mr. Gmeiner replied that a property assessed as dwelling units is not the same as having a separate meter. Mr. Orcutt added that Donelan's paid one PPA for in District for one dwelling now they take that dwelling and split to 3-dwellings would you assess 2 more ERU's or PPA's? Mr. Gmeiner replied when Donelan's went in and was charged \$6,500.00 (PPA) and \$6.58 a gallon for capacity and now in the District it's how it's set up whether its condo or office space and a person ends up with 3 office spaces. Mr. Orcutt replied with water they would be required to have 3-separate meters and would be charge connection fees for each and he feels with sewer they would be looking at 3-ERU's for that building. Mr. Bouchard asked how that would reconcile with the PPA that was paid on the property and Mr. Gmeiner replied that these fee's cover the plant upgrade, I&I removal and the pump upgrade.

Ms. Anderson asked if someone is building a new house with an in-law would that be one meter or two? Mr. Orcutt replied a house with an in-law would be required to have two separate services and

connection fee's, with water. Mr. Orcutt said bottom line we are losing money. Mr. Bouchard asked if an In District 3-bedroom house going to 4-bedrooms do they pay the \$6,000.00 ERU? Mr. Gmeiner replied no they pay 1/3 of the \$2,000.00. Mr. Bouchard then asked take a 20-bedroom apartment in the District they would pay \$6,500.00 plus capacity and an out of District would pay 20 x \$6,000.00? Mr. Gmeiner replied a 20-unit property that already paid a PPA would pay for the gallons only. He also explained that If the dirt has been paid and that was to pay for the original construction, now the new method would be the ERU. Mr. Bouchard then asked if a restaurant out of District would be the ERU method $(2,000/\text{gpd} \div 330) = 6 \times \$6,000.00 = \$36,360.00$. Mr. Gmeiner replied that an existing nonresidential/restaurant outside of the district is $2,000/\text{gpd} \times 365 = 730,000 \div 748 = 975.94 \div 70.76 - 13.8 \times \$6,500 = \$89,649.00$ (then a look back on capacity). Mr. Bouchard then asked out of District proposal is ERU method x \$6,000.00 and In District existing building would be no PPA just gallons because PPA already paid, therefore moving forward inside and outside the District would be the same thing? Mr. Gmeiner replied yes and that is what we will want the regulations to say and he will work on drafting them and have for the next meeting.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to continue the Public Hearing on June 5th, 2019, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Review Sewer Regulations (Chapter 396/Part 4 Sewer Bank 396-36)

Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Bouchard briefly discussed revising these regulations and Mr. Bouchard said he would review the old regulations and they will continue discussing at the next BOSC meeting.

Abatement Process Update

Ms. Crory asked the BOSC if a toilet leak can be considered for abatement. Mr. Gmeiner replied that it is a legal right to file and anybody has the ability to file an abatement.

436 Main Street

Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Orcutt will do a walk thru on Friday at the Conductor Lab and Mr. Orcutt feels we can get going this summer and Mr. Gmeiner agreed. Mr. Bouchard asked if the connection is to the property line and Mr. Gmeiner replied yes.

Pepperell MA

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Rafferty to reach out to Pepperell for an Update on the IMA

Mandatory Sewer Connection Bylaw – Process Review

This was completed

GDRHS - Pumps

Mr. Rafferty said they found parts designed to fit. Mr. Rafferty said Williamson original quote was \$31K to do the work and would reuse the two check valves. Mr. Rafferty said he will recheck with some vendors. Mr. Rafferty said the Business Manager would like more information, Mr. Gmeiner said the original quote was \$25K and now they are close to \$50K. Mr. Orcutt said the Business Manager was

concerned about procurement issues, but we already procured Mr. Rafferty's company for Engineering for \$10K so the construction will not be \$50K. Mr. Gmeiner asked that we get a letter from the Joe Jordan of Pepperell that the pump station needs to be upgraded at their request.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to continue the Public Hearing on June 19th, 2019, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Mr. Orcutt informed the BOSC that we need to move \$1,000.00 from general expenses to wages.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to move \$1,000.00 from General Expenses to wages and Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Next Meeting – June 19th, 2019

BILLS SIGNED

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for FY19, Expense Warrant (EW-26)

MINUTES: April 17th, 2019 approved as amended, May 1st, 2019 and May 13th, 2019 were approved

ADJOURN –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:50 P.M., Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant

APPROVED:
