



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

**Town of Groton Sewer Department**

173 Main Street  
Groton MA 01450

**Date:** March 11th, 2020

**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, John Giger/Select Board, Judy Anderson and Bob Collins

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The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00P.M.

**FY2021 Operating Budget**

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that the revenue looks good so far at \$545K and we budgeted \$600K. Due to the rate increase in 2017 and the capital charge that was incorporated in April this increased revenue. She also told the BOSC that the way the \$74K miscellaneous for the GDRHS pump project is calculated it is throwing off the way the numbers shown because its calculating what we billed out and what we took in. Reason for this is because the BOSC paid the cost upfront for the project then billed out the GDRHS. Mr. Orcutt explained that it was an expense and what we recouped comes back in as revenue. Mr. Orcutt feels we need to do a transfer of \$75K to cover the extra expenses the BOSC paid upfront for GDRHS. Mr. Gmeiner replied that since we billed out GDRHS we should not have to do a transfer. Ms. Crory replied that Ms. Dufresne would want a transfer done because we may have exceeded our budget on expenses. Mr. Gmeiner said he would have a conversation with Ms. Dufresne regarding this transfer.

Mr. Orcutt also told the BOSC that the capital charge we brought in this year is showing with the rate payer income. Ms. Crory said she anticipates the total rate revenue to be \$746K and we budgeted \$600K. Mr. Bouchard asked if we have any connection fees and Ms. Crory told him that is under the construction income. Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Crory under general expense of the \$100K that was encumbered the amount spent shows \$55k and \$40K of that is the June bill and the \$45K left was for I&I and she replied "yes". Mr. Gmeiner asked if the \$45K of encumbered money is from last fiscal year and Ms. Crory replied "yes".

## **Oriole Drive & Hummingbird Easement**

Mr. Collins told the BOSC that the pipe that serves Oriole Drive goes down Hummingbird then meets the line to go out to Sandy Pond and this is the obligation of the homeowner's association that was set up. Mr. Collins said that the Planning Board is requesting a Bond update for the subdivision to include Oriole Drive, but Oriole Drive is part of the Hummingbird sub-division. He told the BOSC that the Planning Board has requested that monies be aside to maintain and service, so this would make it like it is triple bonded. Mr. Collins asked the BOSC to write a letter stating that this will never be a Municipal Obligation. Mr. Gmeiner asked if there is a Condo Association and Mr. Collins replied "yes". Mr. Bouchard asked if part of the condo fees will go into the association? Mr. Collins replied "yes" he set up a homeowner's association and they collect the monies and it goes into an escrow account for the sewer. Mr. Gmeiner also added that the BOSC had asked to have this funded beforehand.

Mr. Collins said now they are requiring a bond and its not a municipal obligation. Mr. Gmeiner added that no lines that are not in a public way would be part of our system. Mr. Collins told the BOSC that they would never own those lines, that they are all considered part of the common system. Mr. Orcutt added that when Hummingbird Lane (over 55 units) were built we did not want to maintain and those have a private system. Mr. Gmeiner said he is ok with submitting a letter because the private homeowner's association has been set up and they will maintain and fund and Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Bouchard agreed.

Mr. Giger added that he thinks that they look at it as if the builder fails halfway thru, then what. Mr. Collins replied that its no different that a builder going under building a new house and does not put a septic in. Mr. Bouchard asked Mr. Collins to acknowledge that this is private and Mr. Collins stated "yes its private and will never be public"

Mr. Gmeiner asked the BOSC if they are ok sending a letter to the Planning Board stating that this is in fact a private system and is not our responsibility. Also, that the developer has contributed to an HOA reserve account for maintenance and replacement.

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to generate a letter to the Planning Board on behalf of Hummingbird Lane and have Mr. Gmeiner approve, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**

Mr. Bouchard told Mr. Collins we only had the documentation from the minutes dated October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and asked that he forward a copy of the agreement for our files.

## **Ixtapa - Sewer Connection**

Mr. Collins said he was here on behalf of Mr. Lacombe regarding the sewer connection for Ixtapa. Mr. Collins said he was informed that bar seats in a restaurant count the same way for Title V. He said they did look at their water bills and they use about a 1/3 and not close to the Title V flows. Mr. Orcutt told Mr. Collins that Ayer is not giving us anything back. Mr. Gmeiner said that the way the regulations are written to use Title V guidelines and we have to follow and we pay Ayer based on Title V. Mr. Gmeiner said he understands what he is saying, but if in the future they end up with more seating outside there is room to grow. Mr. Orcutt also added that its unfortunate that Ayer assessed to us, so we have to pass it on. Mr. Collins then said that Mr. Lacombe would have the rights to the allocation if he decides to rip the existing building down and rebuild. Mr. Collins told the BOSC that they got the approval from the BOH for an extension until April to connect. Mr. Collins asked the BOSC what would be needed for plans and Mr.

Gmeiner replied that we would like to know where the line runs in. Mr. Collins asked in terms of payment could they pay half this year and maybe some next year? Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Gmeiner were in agreement to wait until next fiscal year when construction begins.

#### **44 Farmers Row – Sewer Connection**

Nothing new at this time

#### **436 Main Street**

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that he thinks that the project is ready to go with Lagasse. He also told the BOSC that the construction costs should be cheaper now that workers do not all have to be OSHA certified. Mr. Bouchard asked if OSHA was not required and Mr. Orcutt replied that Just (1) point person is required. Mr. Gmeiner said he asked about them paying ½ the construction cost and he thinks they were not anticipating that. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to check with Mr. Rafferty.

#### **Pepperell IMA**

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that Mr. Nephew has asked to meet with him, Mr. Haddad and the Town Administrator of Pepperell. Mr. Nephew said they have a new proposal that would make us pay less. Mr. Bouchard asked if Mr. Gmeiner knew what the proposal was and he replied “no”. Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that he did ask them for three years of financials. Mr. Gmeiner asked the BOSC if they had any issues with him attending this meeting. Mr. Orcutt suggested that Mr. Gmeiner bring Mr. Rafferty to the meeting and Mr. Bouchard thought that was a good idea especially if there are any fundamental changes. Mr. Gmeiner said he was trying to coordinate for March 18<sup>th</sup> to meet at the Groton Town Hall, but he has had no response yet.

#### **Natural Market – Capacity**

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that he was at the Natural Market last week and noticed a partial kitchen with a stove/crockpot and they make smoothies/sandwiches. He thought we should have them in to discuss the use of the kitchen and if there was a need to increase capacity or the need to install a grease trap.

#### **Chapter 396 Review and Organization**

Mr. Bouchard made the edits from the February 20<sup>th</sup> meeting along with two minor edits for consideration from Mr. Orcutt. The BOSC finished reviewing and editing Chapter 396 for the Groton Center Sewer District and Mr. Bouchard said he would work on the Four Corner Sewer District for the next meeting.

#### **Web Design**

Nothing new at this meeting

#### **Next Meeting** – TBD

#### **BILLS SIGNED**

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for FY20, Expense Warrant (EW-20)

**MINUTES:** January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 were approved

**ADJOURN** –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:50PM, Mr. Bouchard seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey  
Water & Sewer Assistant