



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: November 17th, 2020

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Virtual Meeting Using Zoom

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

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Crory/Business Manager,
& Judy Anderson

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

FY21 & FY22 Budget

FY22 Four Corners:

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that the rates income for FY22 budget should be about \$20K and we do have a new expense of \$21,150.00, which is our Ayer Connection charge Obligation (1st year of 10years). She did tell the BOSC that the Ayer connection fee has gone up to \$5,400.00 from \$4,800.00 and the Ayer quarterly minimum quarterly charges have gone up a bit to \$20.722.00. Mr. Orcutt asked Ms. Crory to check with Ayer because he thought that was a set number. Ms. Crory told the BOSC she revised the minimum usage number because it will be well below even with Shaw's connection, but feels it might do it once Ixtapa is connected. Mr. Gmeiner said the minimum fee we pay to Ayer is based on flow not a dollar number 10% max flow, he did say it would be nice if Ayer would give us notice when they increase rates and connection charges.

Mr. Gmeiner asked how many buildings would be connecting that were not part of the original plan. Mr. Orcutt replied that Oriole Drive (12-14 dwellings 3-4 beds each). He did tell the BOSC that Mr. Moulton has one building permit in already and we need to look at those. Mr. Orcutt said he would check on Mockingbird Hill Road. Ms. Crory said we have been paid \$10K for #2 Mockingbird and \$8K on another one. Mr. Gmeiner asked the BOSC if we need to think about adjusting rates on this and at the beginning we just to a stab at rates because we had nothing to work with. Mr. Orcutt said we are transferring \$26K from reserves. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we should compare rates to the Center District Rates and suggested we have a rate hearing in March, so they take effect in April and will be at full rate in June. Mr. Bouchard said with the \$26K transfer we took from reserves and we can assume \$21K for the debt payment, how will we pay debt in the future if we are not making revenue.

Mr. Orcutt replied that the seed money from Mr. Higgins \$60K and \$90K of Mr. Moulton was part of the Public Works Grant. Those parties both prepaid the connection fee's, so we have enough to cover the \$21K for the next 10 years. Mr. Gmeiner added that the \$21K is one tenth we owe to Ayer for the buy in. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we have the rate hearing in March for operating costs.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the FY22 Four Corners Budget prepared by Ms. Crory to be presented to the Town Manager, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner- Aye, Orcutt- Aye and Bouchard-Aye.

Center Sewer District:

Ms. Crory told the BOSC the biggest thing is the new Pepperell debt and if the town would be splitting it with us. Mr. Gmeiner asked if she showed the transfer with the split and without. Mr. Orcutt replied that it is the full budget showing town split. Ms. Crory also said the betterments have no negative impact on this, but it may get complicated moving forward. Mr. Gmeiner said for Boston Rd and Old Ayer monies, Trish takes it and reserves it for construction. Then the following year it is encumbered, so its not really a special fund and if someone pays early, we still pay on the bond. He told the BOSC that Boston Road should be covered, but we may be short on Old Ayer Road in the last 2-3 years.

Ms. Crory told the BOSC the new debt with Pepperell will be \$35K, but if the town decides not to split it will be another \$35K. Mr. Gmeiner asked if we anticipated a 5% increase in rates and suggested we hold a rate hearing in March.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the FY22 Center Sewer District Budget prepared by Ms. Crory to be presented to the Town Manager, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner- Aye, Orcutt- Aye and Bouchard-Aye.

Other Business: Mr. Gmeiner asked that the records for 247 Main Street be pulled. Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that an application had been submitted and he assessed 1-Bedroom connection fee, then had a discussion with the building inspector and was told there was another bedroom on the 3rd floor and that was not counted. Mr. Gmeiner asked that the Assessors cards be pulled so he can compare. Mr. Bouchard asked what was happening at 197 Main Street and Mr. Orcutt replied it was two dwellings splitting into three dwellings, bed count will stay the same, but the dwelling will increase by one. He told the BOSC for water it was already two family grandfathered in and had another meter put in and they are paying a third connection fee.

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that he has instructed Mr. Rafferty that Shaw's cannot connect without payment.

Next Meeting – December 2nd, 2020

BILLS SIGNED - No bills were signed at this meeting

MINUTES: - No minutes were approved

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 2:49P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner – Aye and Orcutt - Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant