



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: September 15th, 2021

Time: 2:00 P.M.

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 and Oswaldo Filho

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

Filho's - Grease Report

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that Mr. Oswaldo has received the most recent letter and bill regarding the routine jetting and the issues with the grease build up. Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Oswaldo that Pepperell has provided us with the most recent pictures showing the grease build up. Mr. Gmeiner said he spoke with Mr. Grossman and grease trap min size is 1k gallons, but should be sized to hold at least one day flow water. We did look at the flows and they are running close to 1150 gpd, so you need grease trap that close to 1200-1500 gallons. Mr. Oswaldo said he has a 50lb tank now and he said he spoke to United Restaurant and they have a formula to determine size and the size is what he should have. Mr. Oswaldo said that most of the water is used on a daily basis to boil pasta (5-6 cases) a day, water going down sink is water cooling down pasta. Most of the water is clean water and going to grease trap and this would not affect it. Mr. Oswaldo said it is cleaned twice a week and double bagged and a container that is picked t up. He did call a company in Lowell to do private jetting and said he was willing to do that. Mr. Gmeiner asked the photos be sent to Mr. Oswaldo and he said there is a significant amount of grease and it will cause a blockage. Mr. Oswaldo said maintenance is done and feels the grease trap he has is adequate and a bigger trap would require a bigger pipe and space. Mr. Bouchard asked how big grease trap and Mr. Oswaldo replied 50lb which handles 1000 gallons, a 75lb would handle 1300 gallons and 100lb would be 1500 gallons.

Mr. Oswaldo said the company would come out and give him a price to jet the line on a monthly basis. Mr. Gmeiner said we would have to speak to Pepperell and see if that would do. Mr. Oswaldo does not think a bigger trap would stop it going into pipes and Mr. Gmeiner said he may need to bump up to 75lb. Mr. Oswaldo asked the size of pipe in pictures and Mr. Orcutt replied 8". Mr. Gmeiner said picture #1042 shows the amount of grease build up. Mr. Oswaldo said his Acton location is 3K sq ft location and has same size trap and he has no issues. He said he is willing to resolve this issue, but would like to do without digging up the parking lot. He will have his guy come out and access the situation and he will get back to us. Mr. Gmeiner said we could reach out to Pepperell for some additional information. Mr. Bouchard suggested that Mr. Oswaldo show the company the photos of the grease build up that we provided.

Review I&I Study

Mr. Orcutt said we should have Mr. Rafferty put together a proposal and Mr. Bouchard asked that the Rail Trail be included. Mr. Orcutt said the Rail trail and as much of the system as needed. Mr. Orcutt said in the high traffic areas he should check for repairs; the brickwork is 25-30 years old. The I&I will tell us what's flowing and we want a detailed review. Mr. Gmeiner said we need to isolate what's going on and he has checked the daily flows and the fluctuation after a thunderstorm. He thinks he should work his way up the rail trail and feels there could be one big thing somewhere or the brickwork on the manholes at the Rail Trail. Mr. Orcutt will ask him to provide a proposal and Mr. Gmeiner would like to have his study redone that he did for the Town Manager using accurate flows. Mr. Gmeiner asked that we give him the daily flows for months/years for reference.

Proposed Zoning By-Law Amendment

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that comparing the study Mr. Rafferty did and the 75k gpd being added in and if we take the study with the higher flow figures, this will put us over a couple limits: 1) We would need to do an upgrade to the pumping station and possibly more; and 2) unless we get the annual rolling flow, this would put us over the current IMA monthly limit. It's clear that 75k gpd additional with using high flow numbers and doing some upgrades, this would cut off anything else in the future. Unless we do the 4 million dollar upgrade to the pipes, put in a new pump station which would require upgrades in Pepperell, which they may share the cost if we ask. Mr. Bouchard and Mr. Orcutt agreed, Mr. Bouchard asked if adding a holding tank or third pump would make a difference. Mr. Gmeiner said would mitigate for little more room, but that would just cut out so many gallons per hour.

Mr. Gmeiner said the new zoning District is minimum lot area of 100k sq ft., no structure shall exceed five stories, distance between buildings and should be no more 20 feet and 15 dwellings per acre. Mr. Gmeiner asked how many acres and Mr. Bouchard replied "36" acres. Mr. Bouchard said there was a statement at the Select Board meeting that they would not max out and if they did that would get them 500 plus units. Mr. Gmeiner said it also states that sewer shall be disposed by adequate connections to municipal sewer system. Mr. Bouchard asked if that means you cannot define a district without adequate sewer. Mr. Gmeiner said that maybe one take on it and the initial read is that if someone not in district gets article through and get property rezoned to this district that it has to be serve by municipal sewer.

Mr. Gmeiner said that we are limited and wondering if part of solution is we require to have a treatment plant on site, but does not think we can do that with the way this article is written. If you're in the sewer district, you have to connect unless something gets worked out. Mr. Gmeiner thinks this wording should be deleted and would like a letter sent to the Planning Board asking not to include this. Mr. Bouchard asked if Clause "G" was not in the zoning amendment would this mean you could define a multifamily district regardless of sewer. Mr. Gmeiner said it allows you to create more multifamily districts and sewer commission would not have to worry about sewer capacity.

Mr. Orcutt asked what was the legislation that was passed and does that require municipal water/sewer to a zoned area. Mr. Gmeiner said it states the eligible location is defined by area by virtue infrastructure, transportation access and under-utilized locations make suitable for residential and mixed-use smart growth areas near transit stations etc. Mr. Gmeiner said only reference he sees is by virtue of infrastructure

Mr. Gmeiner said the planning board hearing is on the 23rd. Mr. Gmeiner said the other issue is means of adequate connections and is this size of pipe or available capacity. Mr. Bouchard said Mr. Tada says access to existing municipal water/sewer. Mr. Gmeiner proposed we send letter to remove this and Mr. Bouchard asked if the concern was to define a district and be forced to run a municipal sewer and Mr. Gmeiner said "yes". Mr. Bouchard suggested adding "existing municipal sewer system" to clause "G". Mr. Gmeiner said that one way we could add, but there is still the possibility for this particular site of alternative part sewer, part treatment plant. Mr. Bouchard suggested saying existing municipal sewer and capacity. Mr. Gmeiner said those could be additions, but would

rather have deleted in its entirety. Mr. Bouchard feels if removing completely you give ability create one of these districts anywhere.

Mr. Orcutt said if they created and accepted the language to create a district and it was not in the existing sewer district and they want to expand they would have separate sewer district vote at town meeting. Mr. Gmeiner said our By-Law states you would need a separate district vote, but if I'm a developer and have a property with this particular language, I would argue you have to bring the municipal sewer over.

Mr. Orcutt agrees with Mr. Gmeiner and thinks we should ask the Planning Board to strike the language that includes any water/sewer and this case its sewer. He feels we should stick to the language that is provided by the state and we would have to figure out what that means if a district is proposed and who would pay. Would the town be paying for the infrastructure to make the property viable or is it the sewer rate payers? Mr. Orcutt said he thinks it should be the town and it should be the tax based being responsible to get this type of infrastructure for a proposal like this. He feels the financial burden should not fall on a few for a zoning change, it should fall on "all" to make happen and that would be tax based. Mr. Orcutt said this would be benefiting the town not the sewer rate payers and he said this goes back to talking about 40B housing projects that benefits the town not the water district, water/sewer rate payers it's a benefit to the town to meet their quota of 40b housing. Articles such as this one creating zoning district, allows the town to get town grants, not the sewer department. So, the town should bear the cost, so it should be shared by "all". Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Bouchard both agreed with this statement.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to send a memo to the Planning Board asking them to strike the language and Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt -Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

No discussion at this meeting

Damaged Vent Pipe – Boston Road Extension

Mr. Gmeiner asked if there has been an update and Ms. Livezey told the BOSC that Muni-tech was taking care of it and they will be in touch.

436 Main Street

Mr. Orcutt said they are all done and they were not going to seed the area because someone else was coming in to bring sewer line to house and Mr. Orcutt asked them to seed it. Mr. Gmeiner said the only thing left is to buy the grinder pump.

Prescott – Capacity Charges

No updates at this time

Indian Hill Music – Plan Review/Construction Discussion

Mr. Rafferty had an issue with the pump station, minor issue and it will be resolved

108 Pleasant Street – Sewer Connection

No updates at this time

Main Street – Repaving/Discuss Manhole Report

Mr. Orcutt asked if we want to engage Pepperell and have them start putting manholes in. he said they would dig down take frame and cover off rebuild brick work and and put new one to grade and then Mr. Delaney will come in next summer and grinds two inches off roadway and resurfaces and if we complete, we will not have to worry about it.

Mr. Gmeiner thought Mr. Delaney did not want us to start and asked Mr. Orcutt to check with him. Mr. Bouchard asked if Pepperell does the work and Mr. Orcutt said they would put it out there and get a construction to come in and do that then bill us. Mr. Gmeiner said when they had the manpower they would do the work, but now they sub out. Mr. Bouchard asked what condition the street would be in and Mr. Orcutt said we can go in now remove frames and covers repair brick work and bring to grade concrete then in or Mr. Delaney come in next summer and grind off two inches road and give us time to get them done then.

Florence Roche School – Capacity

No Discussion at this time

227 Boston Road / Lindemer – Sewer Connection Update

No Updates at this time

Discussion of Proposed Sewer Commission Website

No discussion at this time

Vote to Engage CAI to Develop Sewer District Maps

Mr. Bouchard said we have all the addresses in and CAI will run the GIS and they will build the sewer map. He would like to ask two things of the BOSC

1. Sewer commission to do the project with CAI to create the maps
2. Mr. Tada and Ms. Foster have a fund for GIS projects and our cost is \$795.00

MR. Bouchard asked that the BOSC take a vote that if funding falls through that the BOSC will cover these costs.

Mr. Bouchard make a motion to approve granting this Project to CAI to develop the sewer district maps for both districts not to exceed \$800.00 Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously Roll Call: Gmeiner – Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

FY21 & FY22 Budget

Ms. Crory said that Indian Hill has paid their connection fee. Ms. Crory sent Ayer and deducted the extra usage and they did bill us at an adjusted rate. Also, we billed out about \$13K in sewer this quarter and the bill Ayer sent us was about \$9,300.00, so we are making \$3,500.00 per qtr. so roughly \$12,000.00 a year.

Other Business: Bills Minutes Etc.

The BOSOC asked to schedule a meeting on September 22nd to discuss the upcoming Public Hearing and any updates if any from Mr. Rafferty.

Next Meeting – September 29th, 2021

BILLS SIGNED – No bills were signed

MINUTES: - No minutes were approved

ADJOURN – *Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:30 P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye, Bouchard-Aye and Orcutt-Aye*

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant