



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: October 20th, 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, Bob Rafferty/EP

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

Filho's - Grease Report

No update at this time

Review I&I Study

Mr. Rafferty suggested that we wait for a storm and pop manhole covers and see what is going on. He said when they did the CCTV, they focused on 436 Main to the pump station and they found 10gpm coming in. He told the BOSC that he was concerned with the manhole deterioration in the high travel areas especially with the dams and trenches, he said he has seen water jumping out and feels like it's going into the manholes. He suggested we do manhole inspections when there is high ground water and snow melt and note the flow going into the manholes.

Mr. Orcutt said what would be best way to address brick and concrete and Mr. Rafferty said before they used a coating of concrete, but now they make flexible products. Mr. Orcutt said this would be a timing issue and with Mr. Delaney paving Main Street from Old Ayer Road to Elm Street. He told Mr. Rafferty they purchased 19 structures to be replaced and we would need to know if we would use to rebuild or use rings instead. Mr. Orcutt thinks the manholes from Old Ayer Road to Elm Street should be evaluated. Mr. Rafferty said you can drive down and see if there is cracking around the manholes and that is a giveaway. Mr. Orcutt feels all of Main Street should be evaluated before next summer when Mr. Delaney is planning on paving.

Mr. Rafferty said we did CCTV on Main Street and Partridgeberry Woods and never really addressed the Rail Trail; he feels we need to look at that area and also said they did not see much at the end Old Ayer Road and Broadmeadow. He feels we should focus on the Rail Trail and said it is a long service that could be leaking and suggested we CCTV. He is thinking there might some big things going on and he told the BOSC he has set some time aside to use a lateral launcher.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to have Mr. Rafferty put together a contract for the I&I study and to address the manholes in accordance of the proposal of October 12, 2021 Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that the new pump system would be a 3-pump process and two pumps running parallel at peak flow and would be rated at 500-550 gpm, which is 50 gpm more than a two-pump system can do. He also mentioned that this would be a tight fit and would make it hard to maintain the pumps and would require taking the roof off. He said the cost to replace the pumping system would be \$800K and that would get another 50 GPM. If we had to do a new structure the cost would be 1.4 million, he feels the least expensive alternative is to upgrade pumps with bigger motors for \$250K.

Mr. Bouchard asked how many gpm do we do now and Mr. Rafferty said they use different numbers and sizing of the pumps and we look what comes in during an hour and he said now is 410 gpm, so that is sized for the peak hour and this is the highest flow we have seen for the system. The average flow is now 100K a day so we are 80 gpm on average and that is what needs to be handled. Mr. Rafferty said getting out the extra flow would help and we know there is 10 gpm from a few years ago that we know we can get out and that is 14K a day and that is I&I and would allow for more flow.

Mr. Rafferty said with a two pumping system you will have parallel pumping shooting out two separate pipes and would allow for more flow. Mr. Rafferty showed a graph with the upgrade (existing pumps) and the proposed operating point of (450gpm) and parallel pumping curve showing the potential (500gpm-550gpm). Mr. Rafferty said for \$780K you get 50gpm and Mr. Orcutt thought that is a low return for the investment. Mr. Rafferty said how much do you really need to send to Pepperell and another option would be reduce the peak factor to get the most flow. Mr. Orcutt said maybe upgrading the pumps would be the most feasible because adding another pump will only get an extra 50gpm and we would still have a pipe issue. Mr. Rafferty said reducing I&I can help and we can see how far we can get with the pump station because the next step would be a multi-million-dollar new complete pump station.

Mr. Bouchard asked how old the pumps are and Mr. Gmeiner said about 15-years. Mr. Bouchard asked if age is a factor and Mr. Rafferty said you can take everything out from the pump case and replace and the have wear plates that can be pulled out and put back in. Mr. Gmeiner asked back to the original proposal you feel we would be ok with the additional 75K a day that is being requested and Mr. Rafferty replied "yes". Mr. Bouchard asked what the August proposal was and Mr. Rafferty said August was (2) pumps and October we were looking at (3) pumps. Mr. Gmeiner asked the price of the (2) pump and Mr. Rafferty said \$250K. Mr. Bouchard asked if this was an emergency to support the new project at 500 Main Street or something that should be done. Mr. Rafferty recommended this be done before they come online. Mr. Rafferty said it is not uncommon to ask the developer to contribute to the cost for the upgrades. Mr. Rafferty asked if there was any affordable housing with this project because we could try for a Mass Works Grant. Mr. Gmeiner said the Town Manager has Arpa Funds up to half million or \$750K for the Sewer, so we can use that to upgrade the plant, include the I&I study and remediation.

Mr. Bouchard asked Mr. Rafferty if the new development would cap out the existing system and Mr. Rafferty replied "yes" including the buffer of 10% peak flow. Mr. Bouchard asked what would happen with the new pumps and Mr. Rafferty with the new pumps it would be restored, Mr. Gmeiner said we would like to keep that buffer of 10% there.

500 Main Street

No discussion at this time

Damaged Vent Pipe Boston Road Extension

No new updates, but a Dig Safe did come in

436 Main Street

No Discussion at this time

Prescott Capacity Charges

No Discussion at this time

Indian Hill Music – Plan Review/Construction Discussion

No Discussion at this time

108 Pleasant Street – Sewer Connection

No Discussion at this time

Florence Roche School – Capacity

No Discussion at this time

227 Boston Road/Lindemer – Sewer Connection Update

No Discussion at this time

Discussion of Proposed Sewer Commission Web Site

No Discussion at this time

FY22 & FY23 Budget

No discussion at this time

Other Business: Bills Minutes Etc.

Ms. Anderson asked if Donnelan's changed to a medical facility is that going to change anything with capacity. She told the BOSC that they have looked for permission to change the front door to take a stretcher. Mr. Gmeiner replied that from a capacity issue probably no, but we would need more information. They did speak about imaging equipment plus a lab for lab work, so we would need to know about discharge issues and we may need to look at capacity.

GIS Mapping: There was a brief discussion on the layout of the GIS mapping and some properties being left off.

Next Meeting – November 3rd, 2021

BILLS SIGNED – No bills were signed

MINUTES: - August 18th and September 1st, 2021 were approved

ADJOURN – Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:26P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye, Orcutt – Aye & Bouchard-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant