



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: December 14th, 2021

Time: 2:30 P.M.

Location: 2nd Floor Conference Room

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

Others Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager, Judy Anderson, Bob Rafferty/EP, Mr. Brinkman/Pepperell and Mr. Nephew/Pepperell

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:30 P.M.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Brinkman told the BOSC that with the new IMA he is proposing is based on a shared system. He told the BOSC that any debt on the pump stations that are used only by Pepperell will exclude Groton. He shared a spreadsheet breaking out the costs for each community for the WWTP, Collection System, expenses and direct costs.

WWTP Cost:

The flow from Groton is based on flow meter reads from the Nod Road Pump station and Pepperell flow is calculated by taking the total flow at the WWTP and subtracting Groton's flow and the total septage received. The revenue from septage pumpers will be deducted from the O&M costs of the WWTP before the allocation. This would be billed on a flow over flow allocation and a true up will be done based on actual flows and costs each year.

Collection System Cost:

This would be the actual cost of the operation of the collection system and this is done by taking the whole budget and taking out all debt service. This would be allocated based on each community usage of the entire system. It is made up primarily of 1) Total Pump Stations 2) Number of Siphons and 3) The miles of gravity pipe serving both communities. The Groton collection system will be operated and maintained similar to the Pepperell Collection system including jetting, cleaning, inspection and repairs.

Mr. Brinkman broke it out and Groton has (3) pump stations and Pepperell (5), Pepperell has (3) Siphons and 14.4 miles which allocates to Groton's share 40% for the pump stations, 10% siphons and 50% of the

gravity mains (see below). He also based the salaries and wages of assigned staff 3 of 7 and 20% of general expenses.

	Total	Groton	Pepperell	Allocation Cost
Pump Stations	8	3	5	40%
Siphons	3*	3	2	10%
Gravity Mains (miles)	46.1*	14.4	34.8	50%

*Absolute Total – Groton Shares elements in Pepperell

Mr. Nephew told the BOSC the goal is to look at this as a whole system and they will look at the whole budget and divide it and feels this is a simple way and will work. If adjustments are needed, he said they can always make adjustments. Mr. Brinkman added at the beginning of the year we would look at it and divide by twelve and at the end of the year we can review and get an actual bill.

Mr. Brinkman said whatever services that are done in Pepperell will be provided in Groton and they would also take on the connection inspections rather than have Mr. Rafferty do it. Mr. Bouchard asked about the repair of a broken pipe and Mr. Brinkman said their staff is not equipped to do that and they would have to hire out or Groton could do that.

Mr. Rafferty asked for capital projects each community would be responsible to pay for their own. Mr. Brinkman replied “yes” and he told the BOSC that whatever services they can do in Pepperell they will provide for Groton and no separate charges would be incurred for ordinary services.

Mr. Rafferty told the BOSC that the end of year conversations would allow for adjustments and would they could plan ahead if needed. Mr. Gmeiner asked how the utility bills would be done and that each community has their own pump stations and currently pay these bills. Mr. Orcutt also asked about retirement costs employees and intergovernmental costs associated with Pepperell. He feels that Groton should not be responsible for any fee’s that do not benefit the town. Mr. Orcutt suggested Mr. Brinkman send over their full operating budget for review and they can continue this discussion at a later date.

Other Business: Bills Minutes Etc.

Next Meeting – November 17th, 2021

BILLS SIGNED – No bills were signed

MINUTES: - No minutes 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