



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: July 20th, 2022
Time: 2:00 PM

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

Others Virtually Present: Ann Livezey, Lauren Crory and Judy Anderson

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 PM

Review I&I Study

No new information

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

Mr. Gmeiner said that the existing pump station could handle the Groton Farms project, but there may be in an issue in the spring time when there is I&I. Mr. Gmeiner suggested that we get an RFP for changing out the existing pumps with pumps that have a higher capacity. The decision we need to make is do we redo things so that allows us to handle for the next 2-3 years or do we level it and build a new 4-million-dollar pump station that will help us long term.

Mr. Bouchard asked if that would trigger an interbasin issue and Mr. Gmeiner said "No". He spoke with Mr. Rafferty and we would not be increasing the amount of waste we send to Pepperell, so as long as we stay within the 275k/gpd limit we would be fine. Mr. Gmeiner said the short-term solution would be \$250K. Mr. Orcutt said that number would be \$450K with engineering, not \$250K. Mr. Orcutt said he feels we should consider the short-term solution because a 4-5 million project would be a significant investment and most like would involve pipe work being done. Mr. Bouchard said if the small improvements give us a two-year window it would not make sense.

Mr. Orcutt said we are approaching out max capacity and there are some developments on the books including Groton Farms and Groton Hills has recently connected and a few others. Mr. Orcutt thinks we should do the small upgrade for now and get the 3-5 years and hope 5-10 years. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we get Mr. Rafferty in to discuss and in the meantime, Mr. Orcutt will put an RFP together for Engineering.

220 Main Street (Parish House) – Capacity

No new information

Expansion Limits

Mr. Gmeiner asked to resend the map that Mr. Orcutt sent out of available parcels left to potentially connect to sewer. Mr. Bouchard suggested that we look at that map and see what the demand may be for those parcels.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner met with Pepperell and they discussed the billing and its IMA. Mr. Gmeiner said they want to start billing us under the new IMA formula for this Fiscal Year. Mr. Gmeiner said he would like to have an inhouse meeting with them on August 17th. He said that Pepperell has reviewed the list Mr. Gmeiner sent out and they are working on providing a written response. The biggest push is to bill us on flow over flow and Mr. Bouchard asked if that was an advantage in terms of capacity billing. Mr. Gmeiner said they have no issue with the 12-month period for capacity. Mr. Bouchard said if flow over flow benefits both towns and maybe we add a time limit to add a 6-month time period to get the IMA completed. Mr. Orcutt said we should wait to start with the billing until we have the IMA, he feels we need a contract.

Ms. Anderson asked if we don't agree to start billing under the new IMA wouldn't that put it higher on the list for their Business Manager to handle. Mr. Gmeiner said that they would just end up billing us at their new rates and that is not advantageous to us. Mr. Bouchard asked that if Ms. Crory to run some numbers on Pepperell's new rates.

Groton Hill Music – Plan Review/Construction Discussion

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that the sewer connection has been made and they will now be billed for both water and sewer.

227 Boston Road/Lindemer – Sewer Connection Update/New House

Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC that a permit has come through for foundation only. Mr. Orcutt said there is a discrepancy with the bedroom count from 5-4. He said we need to come to an agreement with the bedroom count and we also should consider a deed restriction listing it as a 4-bedroom. If not, we have them pay for a 5 bedroom.

Groton Farms Application

Mr. Orcutt said the Sewer Commission needs to send a letter to the Select Board with our input and Mr. Orcutt said he would work on a draft letter for the Commission's approval.

Mr. Gmeiner suggested we come up with a list consisting of:

- No waiving of connection fees

- They maintain & upkeep their own pump stations
- Plans reviewed by our engineer at the applicant's cost
- Current location on either side entry road (was flooded 20-years ago), not flood zone
- Replace sewer lines and properly capped
- Utility allowance based on bedroom count and they list water only, we need to note sewer additional
- They also reference Nod Brook and it should be Gratuity Brook

NOTE: The Nod Road pump station pumps will need to be upgraded to handle this project

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Ms. Crory told the BOSCO there have been no big changes. She did say that the July Billing went out and it was \$10K more than last year. Mr. Gmeiner asked if she could work on truing up the end of the FY22 budget

Mr. Gmeiner asked if we needed to do a fall transfer and Mr. Orcutt suggested we wait until the spring

Commission Reorganization

No discussion at this meeting

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – August 3rd, 2022

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: - June 2nd, 15th, 22nd, 2022 were approved

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:00P.M. Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant