



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: September 29th, 2022
Time: 9:00 A.M.

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

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

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 9:00 A.M.

Reaffirm Earlier Vote of System Expansion

Mr. Orcutt said after the spring town meeting and the discussions of the interbasin transfer we have a few larger projects that the sewer district is facing. He said in May or June, we discussed the sewer district boundaries and undeveloped property in the district and or other parcels that could be converted. Adding these could affect the interbasin transfer to Ayer or Pepperell. Mr. Orcutt said he provided a map and thought the commissioners were all in agreement not to extend the district boundaries. He said this was discussed in April and would like to reaffirm that vote.

Mr. Bouchard said he was trying to recollect, but does not and he would like to discuss the rationale. Mr. Gmeiner wanted to make note that we researched the minutes and we did not find any. Mr. Gmeiner said he does recall an in-house meeting and vaguely recalls Ms. Crory or Ms. Livezey leaving the meeting and remembers having a discussion after that and possibly voting on it then. Ms. Anderson said she recalls Mr. Orcutt worrying about the interbasin transfers for both districts, but does not remember anything being decided.

Mr. Orcutt said in the Four Corners Sewer District there are 2-parcels that are not fully connected or not connected at all (this includes the Shaw's complex and a larger parcel which is the National Grid Parcel). He did tell the BOSC that Mr. Moulton's project on Oriole Drive is underway. Mr. Orcutt said when we went to get capacity for the Lost Lake area, we had to go to Water Resource Commission to have Four Corners included in the inter basin transfer and that was ok for those parcels. He said based on the interbasin transfer there is limited sewer capacity for wastewater going from the Merrimack to Nashua. Mr. Orcutt said if someone wanted to extend the district, we would have to get approval from the Water Resource Commission to extend the district boundaries.

Mr. Bouchard asked if there was prohibitors when the district was defined and did it include the properties described and that would be the limit. Mr. Gmeiner said the state approval for this district had

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to be run through the Water Resource Commission and the issue is taking water from one water basin to another (Merrimack -Nashua). He also mentioned that there is a condition if we hit certain flows, we need to lower boards at Lost Lake dam to compensate for the transfer. Also, if we need to expand the district we have to go back to the State and the whole interbasin issue becomes problematic.

Mr. Bouchard asked if the numbers were that close and Mr. Gmeiner said “no”, but they could be. He said bringing more properties in we could trigger it, but we are not that close on the gpd. Mr. Bouchard asked if we expanded the district to include some residential; and the other side Four Corners. Mr. Orcutt said the only other properties included were Oriole Drive and Hummingbird, everything else was within the original boundaries and part of the Grant. Mr. Bouchard asked if there is a similar process and maybe we can ask the State and Mr. Orcutt said we would have to speak with Mr. Rafferty and if we want to expand beyond the Lost Lake are we would need permission. Mr. Orcutt thinks the gpd we send to Ayer would be the trigger and if we do trigger it that may require us to monitor the flows in the Lost Lake Dam.

Mr. Bouchard asked if there was a property not in Lost Lake area but in Four Corners area, would expanding to a property like that be the issue because we would not know the effects to the interbasin. Mr. Gmeiner said it would depend on their demand and what goes on within the district.

Mr. Gmeiner said the Center District issue is the pump station upgrade and the IMA. The IMA allows 275K gpd to Pepperell and now we are on a rolling 12-month period. He said that would relieve some burden under the current IMA but if we exceed that, we have to stop all new connections. The other limit would be the pump station as currently existing and needing to be upgraded from suction pumps to something better. Mr. Gmeiner feels we can do the minor modifications and not have to do the major upgrade and be able to meet demand. He said further down the line could be an issue because of the Water Resource Commission and the issue of pumping water from one basin and pumping it to another basin. He told the BOSC if we go above the 275gpd in the future that would trigger the interbasin.

Mr. Bouchard asked for clarification on the interbasin transfer issue and said we have an issue from Four Corners to Ayer and the Center District to Pepperell, and asked if we have three basins. Mr. Orcutt said we have two the Merrimack and Nashua and they are two different permits. Mr. Bouchard said the interbasin is permit based and are we transferring to the same basin. Mr. Gmeiner said the wells are located in the Merrimack and both Pepperell and Ayer discharge to the Nashua and there is a line in Groton and it is split in half. Mr. Orcutt said Nashua is higher stressed and the trigger is the treatment plants are in other communities and that is what triggers it. Mr. Gmeiner said we do have one approved well in the Nashua, but it would be costly to develop. Mr. Orcutt said the issue with the Center District is that map he provided showing the properties he identified, we would need to reserve some type of capacity for these. If we extend the district boundaries to others you may use that up and shut them out.

Mr. Bouchard said we have one request before us for the Center District and Mr. Orcutt said and one for Four Corners, so we need to be careful how we manage. Mr. Bouchard said maybe we come up with some sort of definition that we can refer to for applicants outlining the issues such as capacity, triggering interbasin and pumps etc. Mr. Orcutt said he can work on some bullet points in the next few weeks.

Shaw's – Billing / 2nd Meter

Mr. Gmeiner told Ms. Crory to send another letter urging them they need to install the 2nd meter, due to affecting the intermunicipal agreement we have with Ayer.

No Discussion for the following:

201 Boston Road – Bedroom Count

Pepperell IMA

Review I&I Study

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

220 Main Street (Parish House) – Capacity

Expansion Limits

Groton Farms Application

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Commission Reorganization

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Gmeiner asked that we make a revision to the Policy and Guidelines to extend the Sewer District. He said we need to add that we want an actual copy of the abutters list that was provided by the Assessor's office when the certified receipts are turned in. He also suggested we note that all immediate abutters within 100-200 feet should be notified. Mr. Orcutt agreed and suggested 300 feet and feels that should include anyone who may benefit from it. Mr. Bouchard said he would make the necessary changes and submit for approval at the next meeting.

Next Meeting –October 6th, 2022

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: - No Minutes Approved

ADJOURN – Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 9:50 A.M. Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant