



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: November 2, 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, Don Black, Kevin Lindemer, Eric Brown and Paul Brinkman

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

Pepperell IMA & GDRHS Billing

Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Brinkman to help with sorting out the billing for the GDRHS that he submitted. Mr. Brinkman said he pulled up the budget and forecast and split by the cost treatment plant, collection system and split that out. He said that the green lines he highlighted (salaries, WWTP Direct cost and Expenses) show the treatment costs which comes to \$1.7 million and the collection you take the rest cost that are O&M and base on the elements they use.

- 1 out of 8 pumps
- 1 out of 8 siphons
- So many miles of pipe

He said he took those numbers and he carried forward and if they were only ones connected to the system and if applying those costs that is what their bill would be. He said the GDRHS has their own system, so he thought this would be the way to do it. He also said because they have their own pump station that is a process to maintaining the system and in the previous billing it was a quick trip here and there to check the pump stations and when we isolate that it becomes a bigger piece of the cost. Also, if they had to hire their own contractor, it would cost the same. Mr. Brinkman said DEP would require frequent checks and if they had to get their own treatment plan it would cost well over \$100k-\$200K per year.

Mr. Brinkman put together a few difference cost scenarios and the BOSC was in agreement with the following plan with the removal of the difficulty factor.

Scenario #1 (difficulty factor removed and total treatment and collection credit)

Scenario 1 Credit for Total as a percentage of cost	Credit	\$	7,334.30
	Total annual	\$	65,463.52
	Monthly	\$	5,455.29

201 Boston Road/Lindemer New House

Mr. Lindemer said he requested a letter from Mr. Grossman stating that 201 Boston Road is a 4-bedroom home and he told the BOSC that Mr. Grossman is no longer working for the BOH and he was unable to provide that letter. Mr. Gmeiner said we can print the email stating it was a 4-bedroom home and put that in the file.

Mr. Lindemer said the other issue is the hook up fee number and said he was not told it was \$10K and back in May 2020 he was told the fee would be \$8K. Mr. Orcutt told Mr. Lindemer there has been a rate increase since that time and you pay the current fee's when the building permit is applied for. Mr. Gmeiner stated that the connection fee was increased to \$7,500.00/per ERU on April 1st, 2022.

Mr. Black said on the website under regulations it says \$6K dated March 30th, 2022. Mr. Gmeiner explained the new rates when in effect on April 1st, 2022. Mr. Lindemer said they have been basing it on the \$6K figure and now he finds out is \$7,500.00. Mr. Gmeiner said the BOSC cannot hold the number and he is responsible for the fee's due at the time the building permit is applied for.

Mr. Lindemer asked if this could be waived until occupancy and feels paying \$10K in advance will allow the BOSC to pay expenses and said if he kept that money, he could make 6% interest. Mr. Bouchard said that is how it is written in our Regulations "Connection Fee Due at the Time the Building Permit is Applied for". Mr. Gmeiner told Mr. Lindemer that we could do a payment plan for the amount due.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the sewer connection fee upon the time the sewer connection is made for 201 Boston Road, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and Mr. Orcutt and Mr. Bouchard were opposed.

The BOSC was in agreement to provide Mr. Lindemer with a 6-month payment plan of \$1,666.66 and if the connection was made sooner, payment would be due in full.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion for a payment plan in the amount of \$10K for 201 Boston Road spread over 6-months and if the early connection is made, the balance will need to be paid in full.

Mr. Gmeiner changed the motion to:

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to waive the Sewer Regulations and accept 6-equal payments of \$1,666.66 and if the connection is made the total balance will be due in full, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye

Mr. Bouchard told the BOSC that there is an old version of fees on the E-Code dated March 30th and he will have them updated.

491 Main Street Unit “E” Café/Cooking School

Mr. Brown told the BOSC that he will be occupying the old Blackbird Space and the plan is a café/cooking school with a total of 12-seats. Mr. Gmeiner said that space is currently based on retail space and the change of use would be

12 seats @ 35/gpd=420-200(retail) = 220 ÷330x\$7500.00 = \$5K connection fee

Mr. Orcutt suggested we settle on a restaurant and do a one year look back and once they get occupancy we can see. Mr. Gmeiner said according to Title v that would double the flows and feels that would be too high and feels a credit of 200/gpd for the retail space and 12-restaurant seats is the way to go.

Mr. Brown told the BOSC that he has not done the build out yet and he may not be open every day. He asked the BOSC if there would be any monthly costs involved and Mr. Gmeiner told him that bills are issued quarterly. Mr. Brown asked if he was responsible for those bills as a tenant or the owner and Mr. Gmeiner said he would be responsible as the renter.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion that the sewer connection fee would be \$5k based on 12-restaurant seats with a one year look back when up and running, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye.

Mr. Bouchard asked about the sizing of the grease trap and Mr. Brown said he has a plumber determine the correct size.

Review I&I Study

No discussion

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

No new information

220 Main Street (Parish House) – Capacity

No discussion

Expansion Limits

No discussion

Groton Farms Application

No discussion

FY22 & FY23 Budget

Four Corners:

Ms. Crory told the BOSCO that the fee due to Ayer for the (8) new connections at \$5,400.00 each is \$43,200.00. Mr. Gmeiner asked that we ask Ayer to provide us with an invoice. Ms. Crory said we had \$12K in the budget, so we will need to do a transfer to cover this.

Commission Reorganization

No new information

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – November 9th, 2022

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: - No minutes approved

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

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant