

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Sewer Commissioners
Thursday, February 16th, 2023
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jim Gmeiner, Vice Chairman Tom Orcutt, Member Michael Bouchard, Business Manager Lauren Crory, Robert Rafferty from Environmental Partners, and Resident Judy Anderson.

Mr. Gmeiner called the meeting to order at 2:02pm.

Mr. Orcutt joined at 2:04pm

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Rafferty thinks the calculations were what was expected and discussed. We do need to talk about the difficulty factor. Mr. Rafferty made comments to make sure there is equity and is recommending some new language and some language from the previous IMA. Mr. Rafferty also made comments on things that were not clear and need to be explained.

“Facility Value” is a new concept in the IMA and we need to know Pepperell’s intent with this.

Average Daily Flow was used in last IMA. Collection System is now based on peak flow so that needs to be defined and consistent.

There is a penalty if you go elsewhere and payment due on loans and Mr. Rafferty thinks the loan agreement should remain in place.

Backup should be coming with the invoice, not upon request. Mr. Bouchard would also like flow data on the monthly invoices. Mr. Gmeiner said they don’t want details on billing anymore but we all agree we need some details. We need monthly flows for HS and Nod Rd. We need a summary of services we don’t need extreme details.

Mr. Rafferty added notes that we need to receive invoices and will pay within 30 days of receipt. The same payment terms apply if we get a credit.

The true up credit or invoice needs to be within 90 days of the end of the year. Mr. Bouchard asked if any changes on our end will be included in the true up and Mr. Gmeiner said yes.

Mr. Gmeiner wants to change the 14% interest on late payments to 5%. Mr. Bouchard suggested using prime interest rate.

Capital Project cost allocation has a definition of capital projects and set \$50,000 as the threshold. Mr. Rafferty wants to word this as the threshold for sealed bids so that it can change over time. Mr. Orcutt asked if they do a construction project in Pepperell are we paying 25% of that in their operating costs. Mr. Rafferty reads it as capital project related to wastewater. Mr.

Orcutt asked if there was a shared pipe would be pay 25% and Mr. Rafferty said no it gets more complicated there. It falls under a different calculation (flow over flow if the plant or collection system is peak flow/capacity). Mr. Rafferty does not know how they are calculating peak flow and need to discuss this. He wants a lot more detail and definition involved.

Mr. Rafferty and Mr. Orcutt would like to keep the 25% calculation for Treatment and Disposal costs and not the new proposed formula which involved annual daily flow. Mr. Bouchard asked if there could be a capital cost that would be mostly for Groton and Mr. Rafferty said one of the next sections says if you increase your capacity these numbers begin to change. There is some confusion on what facility means. Mr. Rafferty thinks we need to work with them to simplify this calculation. (Section 6).

The penalties involving excess flows are new and Mr. Gmeiner thinks these defeats having an annual rolling amount of capacity. Mr. Orcutt said to take it out.

Mr. Rafferty said we need a copy of any meter calibrations (8.1).

Can use pumping rate for peak flow or there is a standard from TR16 that says what the peak flow by convention would be (which is higher and how things are designed. However, if we take out the penalties this isn't a big issue. Mr. Gmeiner does not want to worry about a peak flow or monthly average. Mr. Rafferty thinks using the average flow simplifies everything.

Mr. Gmeiner said the lawyers will go over the legal sections.

Mr. Rafferty wanted to discuss the difficulty factor. This was a very precise calculation where other calculations are not. We are going to suggest a 3% difficulty factor.

Mr. Gmeiner wants to talk to them on March 1. Mr. Bouchard thinks that we should have a meeting solely for the review of the IMA with Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner is looking at March 8th to invite Pepperell in at 2:00.

Other Business

Mr. Gmeiner reiterated that he would like to control the town meeting articles for anyone submitting requests regarding sewer connections.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to adjourn at 3:17pm, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory