



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: April 24, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt

Others Present: Lauren Crory/Business Manager, Ann Livezey/Assistant and Judy Anderson

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

142B Carriage House

Mr. Gmeiner said we may need to review the connection fees after the Public Hearing. Mr. Orcutt said that there are multiple salon chairs, pedicure stations, wash stations and massage tables that we may need to consider since we based the flow on 5 chairs. Mr. Gmeiner said what we should seek guidance from the BOH in figuring out the Title V calculations.

218 Main Street - Addition

Mr. Gmeiner said in reviewing the plan it seems that they are adding (2) office spaces at approximately 600 sq. ft. His concern is the plumbing plan and we need to make sure they maintain gravity. Mr. Gmeiner suggested they come in to a meeting so we can get more detailed information.

2: 15 P.M. Public Hearing: To Amend the Groton Center Sewer District Rules and Regulations and the Four Corners District Rules and Regulations

Notice of Public Hearing

*In accordance with Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the Town of Groton Sewer Commission will hold a Public Hearing, **Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at 2:15 P.M.** via Virtual Meeting using Zoom Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order, to amend the "Groton Center Sewer District Rules and Regulations" and the "Four Corners Sewer District Rules and Regulations". Please see Meeting posted at <https://www.grotonma.gov/events/> for details regarding Zoom meeting information.*

Mr. Gmeiner said when a property is already connected to sewer and there is a change of use we need to discuss how to calculate. He said when referring to building space now we would collect for each single space. When we worked through Groton Farms, the way we calculated is we took the existing flow for the whole building and looked at the proposed flow and did the calculation that way. So, it was the total new flow minus the total

old flow and then we calculated. Mr. Gmeiner said with these new regulations it would be based on that if the property is already connected to sewer. If it is not connected and they are adding a new parcel or something that has not been connected, they would need to pay on the total amount of dwelling units for a condo development. Mr. Gmeiner did revise the definitions to reflect these changes. He said for a new property connection to the common sewer, each building space within a building or structure shall be assessed a separate sewer connection fee. For properties already connected to the common sewer, changes in building space would result in an increased wastewater flow and will be charged a connection fee for that increased flow. Mr. Gmeiner said under the calculation of fees he has given some examples to make it clearer. Mr. Gmeiner said if there is decreased flow, we will not be giving a refund for a previous connection fee. If someone comes in and decreases the flow that is what will remain at the property.

Mr. Gmeiner said the Four Corners Regulations will be the same as the Center Sewer District with the exception on the sewer connection fee he added "In no event shall the sewer connection fee be less than the connection fee due to the Town of Ayer under the Inter Municipal Agreement. Mr. Orcutt added that we are not looking to change anything that we are currently discussing by these regulations at The Four Corners.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to close the public hearing at 2:26 on the Groton Center Sewer District Rules and Regulations and the Four Corners District Rules and Regulations Mr. Gmeiner Seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt-Aye.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to Approve the changes to the Rules and Regulations for The Groton Center Sewer District and Four Corners District as amended effective date April 24th, 2024, Mr. Gmeiner Seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt-Aye.

2:30 P.M. Public Hearing: To Consider amending the wastewater rates for the Four Corners Sewer District

Notice of Public Hearing

In accordance with Chapter 83 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and the Town of Groton Usage Fee Regulations, the Groton Sewer Commission will hold a Public Hearing, **Wednesday, April 24th, 2024 at 2:30 P.M.** via Virtual Meeting using Zoom Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order to consider amending the wastewater rates and fees for the Four Corners Sewer District. Please see Meeting posted at <https://www.grotonma.gov/events/> for details regarding Zoom meeting information

Ms. Crory said she pulled the last four quarters and explained that we have 4-tiers for billing and Ayer has a flat rate Tier 1. She feels that the usage is falling in different tiers and that extra data is falling in Tier 2,3 & 4 and she thinks that is offsetting the increase that Ayer is giving us.

She said current usage is 3283 units for the year and if billed at \$12.01 treatment would be \$40K, so under the new rate that would be \$2k more that would be an increase of \$1,400.00. So, at our current rates the updated number we would bring is \$62K and we budgeted for FY25 bringing in \$58K. So, when she plugs in the revised income number and revised treatment number, she feels the budget will be fine as is.

Mr. Orcutt asked what was in the reserve fund and Ms. Crory said \$274K after taking out what is reserved for Ayer debt. Mr. Gmeiner said he is comfortable keeping rates as they are, but he was asking if we should change the FY25 Budget. Mr. Orcutt said he does not think we need too and Ms. Crory said we will be under on income and under on expenses, so she is comfortable.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to close the public hearing at 2:46 to consider amending the Four Corner Wastewater Rates and Fees Mr. Gmeiner Seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt-Aye.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion not to change the rates and fees for the Four Corners Sewer District for FY25, Mr. Gmeiner Seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt-Aye.

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

No Update

Review Sewer Commission Applicants

No update and the election will be held May 5th, 2024

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner said we got the revisions back with K&P comments and Mr. Gmeiner has sent off to Mr. Rafferty for review.

Review I&I

No Update

Discuss Regulations Regarding Change of Use

No Update

6 Fairway Drive – Sewer Connection

No update

FY24 & FY25 Budget

No discussion

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – May 1st, 2024

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: Mr. Orcutt made a motion to approve the minutes of April 3rd, 2024 as written Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye and Orcutt - Aye

ADJOURN – *Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 2:55P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call Gmeiner–Aye and Orcutt-Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant