

Groton Sewer Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Sewer Commissioners
Wednesday, September 4th, 2024
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jim Gmeiner, Vice Chairman Thomas Orcutt, Member Eric Berg, Sewer Assistant Ann Livezey and Business Manager Lauren Crory.

Mr. Gmeiner called the meeting to order at 2:00pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow evaluation

Mr. Gmeiner said they had a pre-construction meeting with the engineers and the work will begin soon and should be done by Christmas. A letter will be sent to the abutters to inform them of the work. They will have a shut off valve to bypass Pepperell Sewer during some of the work. It will be sucked out and trucked away.

142B Main Street

The number of salon chairs is in question at 142B Main St. Although there are 5 hair salon chairs, there are also pedicure stations, massage chairs, a tanning booth etc. The Board decided to do a full year long look back in May to determine if they purchased adequate sewer capacity. Currently, the usage data appears to be higher than what they paid for 5 hair salon chairs under Title V.

The owner of 142 Main St paid a full sewer connection fee of \$7500 for his new apartment in the upstairs of the carriage house. After a change in regulations, he only owes \$2500 for the change of use. The Board agreed to issue him his \$5000 credit for this property.

The salon will be reviewed in May and he may owe additional capacity fees.

Mr. Gmeiner said we may need to put something in the regulations that if a company is growing or lessening there may need to be a look back.

29 West Street – Abatement

Mrs. Crory reviewed the sewer abatement request at 29 West St. Mr. Berg asked if it was occupied and Mr. Gmeiner said it is a 3-unit rental with one meter. This customer received a large bill and identified their hot water tank was leaking as well as leaks in the bathroom. Mr. Berg asked why it took so long to figure it out and Mrs. Crory said he did not have a new meter with leak detection. The customer provided receipts to show the repairs and Mrs. Crory vouched that the leak is gone now that the customer has a Badger meter and can be tracked. The Board members discussed the extra usage and do not know how to determine how much was a

bathroom leak and how much went through the dirt basement floor. Mr. Orcutt is going to talk to the plumber to help identify how much water went and it will be discussed at the next meeting.

108 Pleasant – New Connection

Mrs. Crory said the contractor at 108 Pleasant St stopped by the office to ask if the homeowner would need to pay another full sewer connection fee if they were to build a pool house. After discussing, Mr. Gmeiner said the short answer would be yes but Mr. Orcutt added that they would need to review the plans as a poolhouse can mean many things.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner said our draft was submitted to Pepperell and they were still reviewing. Mr. Gmeiner will send the draft to the commissioners.

Review I&I

Mr. Gmeiner is to follow up with Mr. Brinkman in Pepperell to identify any work that should be done.

218 Main Street – Addition

Mr. Gmeiner cleared the permit today.

6 Fairway Drive – Sewer Connection

Mrs. Crory thought the connection fee was not paid but Mrs. Livezey did notify Mr. Gmeiner it was paid and they should be all set. Pepperell will need to speak with Brian Lagasse about his directional drilling plan.

FY24 & FY25 Budget

Mrs. Crory said the rates were inline with last year and the miscellaneous income was already above budget for this fiscal year.

Mrs. Crory reviewed the GDRHS estimated FY25 billing which is about a 33% increase. Mr. Gmeiner said their pump station and their own line and syphon accounts for a lot of our usage which may drive this number up. Mrs. Crory and Mrs. Livezey will send the new monthly bill which is going up from \$5455 to \$7272. Mrs. Crory added that our monthly bills have gone up about 25%. Mr. Berg asked why it would go up if they are not using as much water and Mr. Gmeiner said it is the infrastructure portion that is factored into what they owe. Mrs. Crory said we will also need to figure out how our true up affects the high school billing.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if we need any transfers at fall town meeting and Mrs. Crory said no especially since we do not have our true up numbers from Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner said we may

need a transfer in the spring. Mr. Orcutt said Mr. Haddad will leave the articles on the warrant without numbers for now.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of August 7th, Mr. Orcutt seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Next Meeting is August 18th, 2024 at 1:00pm.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 3:02pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory