



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Eric Berg

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: November 6th, 2024

Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Eric Berg

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

Review Nod Road Pump Station and Flow Evaluation

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that the manhole on Nod Road would be lifted on Thursday and the bypass work would be done at night.

Pepperell IMA

Mr. Gmeiner said they are waiting on Mr. Rafferty because he had a question on whether we will be getting a credit for what we pay for office overhead.

Four Corners Sewer District Parcels

Mr. Gmeiner said he will revisit his notes on this for more information.

Review I&I

No discussion

FY24 & FY25 Budget

Center Sewer: Ms. Crory discussed the rates, capital charge and connection fees. She put in \$710K for rates and that is what we pulled in in FY24 and thinks that will stay about the same for FY25. The capital charge brings in \$70K per year and that was put in place four years ago for a new debt we owed Pepperell and she thinks that may be able to be reduced. She allocated for two connection fees for FY25 and Mr. Gmeiner agreed. Mr. Gmeiner mentioned the Groton Farms project and we will be getting money

eventually and Ms. Crory said for the FY25 budget we did not allocate. Ms. Anderson asked about the Waters House and Mr. Gmeiner said that has been paid. The GDRHS billing has gone up with the new IMA and is now \$87K and Ms. Crory kept the same because we have not received any numbers from Pepperell. She asked about the debt fee for the GDRHS and if we want to keep that separate. Mr. Gmeiner said this relates to the debt we pay Pepperell and we should keep it in place. Ms. Crory provided numbers for the betterments and told the BOSC we have a few years left and we just need to get thru FY26 & FY27. She said it will not be a perfect pay off due to the interest. The debt on Boston Road was put into a reserve fund by the accountant and looks good and Old Ayer will run out this year. She said we have \$6500 left and we only have \$6600, so in FY26 & FY27 we will have a \$7K shortfall for each year.

The enterprise fund balance is \$406K and for FY26 we possibly will need a \$80K transfer to balance the budget. Under expenses Pepperell has been billing us \$50K and we allocated \$52K a month for FY25 and we are still waiting on the true up numbers. She said we have \$60K reserved in this year's budget, so we may not need to use it all. She told the BOSC if we do not need the reserved true up money, we may not be that short.

Ms. Crory said the Pepperell Phase 1 debt that we split with the town of \$24k each is falling off and at the last year at the budget meeting the town agreed to split the \$71K debt we have been paying so if we split it would be \$35K each. If this is split with the town, she feels that the capital charge could be reduced.

Four Corners Sewer:

Ms. Crory said that \$57K is safe for rate income because in FY24 we brought in \$60K. She said with Steward Medical gone now and they were about \$3k-\$4k a year, so she used \$57K. She said as far as the allocation for the connection fees for the 5th corner (24-units), she thinks the permits would be pulled in FY26. The payment for new Ayer connections is \$6k per ERU which will be a total of \$144K for that project, so she estimates we will bring in \$80K. Mr. Berg asked what happens if permits are pulled in FY25, Ms. Crory said we would just roll into our reserve fund and we could transfer out the following fiscal year to pay Ayer.

Ms. Crory asked about the inspections and if we should increase that budget line. Mr. Berg asked who we hire to do these inspections and Mr. Gmeiner said in the past we hired Environmental Partners. Mr. Berg suggested that we reach out to get an estimated figure for that line and Mr. Gmeiner agreed.

Ms. Crory said we are in year five of the \$21,500 that we pay Ayer for the ten- year obligation. For treatment she allocated \$40K and explained that's what we pay out to Ayer and our first quarter bill was \$9,800, so she feels that is a good estimate. Mr. Berg asked if the new project would impact this and Mr. Gmeiner said possibly and we should increase to \$45k for budgeting.

Ms. Crory said she will clean this all up and we can discuss at the next meeting.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – November 20th, 2024

BILLS SIGNED – No bills signed

MINUTES: Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of October 16th, 2024 as written, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Gmeiner-Aye and Berg-Aye

ADJOURN – *Mr. Berg made a motion to adjourn at 2:50P.M. Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye and, Berg - Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant