



James Gmeiner/Chair
Eric Berg/Vice Chair
Daris Budrys/Clerk

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: June 4th, 2025

Time: 2:00 PM

Members Virtually Present: James Gmeiner/Chair
Eric Berg/Vice Chair
Darius Budrys/Clerk

Others Virtually Present: Lauren Crory/Business Manager and Ann Livezey/Assistant

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

Reorganization of the BOSC

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that reorganization typically happens once a year, but may occur more frequently. The commission proceeded with the reorganization and elected Mr. Gmeiner as Chairman, Mr. Berg as Vice Chair and Daris Budrys as Clerk.

Mr. Berg made motion to elect Mr. Gmeiner as Chairman Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Mr. Budrys made motion to elect Mr. Berg as Vice Chairman and Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Mr. Berg made motion to elect Mr. Budrys as Clerk and Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Sewer Abatement Request – 154 Main Street

Mr. Gmeiner brought Mr. Budrys up to speed on the abatement that was requested. He told him that there was a leak in the air handler and there was significant water flow, which did not go down the sewer so they are requesting an abatement. Mr. Gmeiner said there were pictures sent in and it confirmed there is a French drain around the basement edge and it drains into a sump pump. Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC he requested pictures to see where the sump pump actually went. Mr. Budrys said he reviewed the pictures and saw that it goes into some type of well and asked if it was a dry well. Mr. Gmeiner said he thought it was a wet well and Mr. Budrys asked if we had a picture of the outlet because he did not see a one. Mr. Gmeiner said there was not an actual picture of the outlet into the well, but he thinks its there. Mr. Berg said the picture does not show the inside of

the well and Mr. Budrys said there is no picture showing where the pipe is coming out and where the sump pump actually goes. Mr. Gmeiner suggested we put this off for another week and asked Ms. Crory to reach out to the homeowner and get a picture from the inside of the well and where it's going out. Mr. Budrys suggested asking for a video because that would be much clearer.

Public Hearing to consider amending the wastewater rates for the Center Sewer District and Four Corners Sewer District

Mr. Gmeiner opened the Public Hearing at 2:15p.m and Mr. Budrys read the following notice:

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, **June 4th at 2:15 P.M.** via Virtual Meeting using Zoom Pursuant to the Governor's Executive Order to consider amending the wastewater rates and fees for the Center Sewer District and the Four Corners Sewer District. Please see Meeting posted at <https://www.grotonma.gov/events/> for details regarding Zoom meeting information.

Four Corners:

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that the income side is slightly lower than we budgeted due to some connection fees being received earlier than expected, but this shortfall will be covered by a transfer from reserves. She said we have \$26K left in expenses and the free cash forecast for Four Corners is about \$425K. She also told the BOSC that Ayer will be increasing their rates by .32 cents/per unit. Ms. Crory believes the current rates will still cover expenses without needing an immediate rate increase for Four Corners customers.

The BOSC discussed the potential changes in water usage due to an upcoming project. Mr. Berg suggested we revisit in six months as new developments like the 5th corner are developed. Mr. Gmeiner the 5th corner will be over 55 housing which most likely will not fall into the highest tier. Ms. Crory said that Ayer rates will increase 2.5% and Mr. Gmeiner suggested running rates to cover the difference even though it would be minimal. He said the last increase was done in 2022 and Ms. Crory said she will analyze the numbers and have some scenarios for the next meeting.

Center Sewer District:

Ms. Crory said for FY25 we have \$115K in extra income, with \$40K of that from rate income and we have \$63K left in expenses. The estimated beginning balance for FY26 is \$537K, which is a good year. This is partly from the unexpected project at Lawrence Academy and some left over funds from the Nod Road project. She also told the BOSC that the betterment charges and debt payment will be phasing out in the next few years.

Ms. Crory said she did revise the FY26 budget highlighting the debt that the town will no longer be splitting with us so the capital charge will have to remain at \$72K and not be reduced to \$35K as planned. She briefly discussed conservative estimates for income, including rates and connection fees. She did tell the BOSC that the high school debt fee may need to be recalculated, due to changes in the debt structure. She explained on the expense side the monthly payment to Pepperell is budgeted for \$52K with a 10% true up line. Ms. Crory said that she is uncertain how the true up process will work and she asked for input on whether to be proactive or wait and see. She expressed we have a healthy reserve fund and with potential future income from projects like Groton Farms we should be fine.

The BOSC discussed the lack of reliability of historical data for true up costs and potential revenue from new connections. After reviewing the current budget situation, they decided we may not need to raise rates at this time. They did discuss the potential 4% increase for FY27 to be able to cover costs without a transfer.

The BOSC was in agreement to continue the Rate Hearing until June 11th, 2025 to review updated numbers and scenarios before making any decisions on increasing the rates.

FY25 & FY26 Budget

No discussion

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – June 11th, 2025

BILLS SIGNED: No bills signed

MINUTES: *Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of May 21st, 2025 as written Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg–Aye and Budrys-Aye*

ADJOURN: *Mr. Berg made a motion to adjourn at 3:40 PM. Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg – Aye and Budrys-Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant