



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

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: June 11th, 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

154 Main Street – Abatement Continued

The BOSC approved the abatement request for 154 Main Street after reviewing the video evidence showing proper sewer discharge.

Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the abatement for 154 Main Street in the amount of \$1,472.84 Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg–Aye and Budrys–Aye

2:10 P.M. Public Hearing to consider amending the wastewater rates for the Center Sewer District and Four Corners Sewer District

Mr. Gmeiner reopened the public hearing at 2:10PM.

Four Corners Sewer:

Ms. Crory said after reviewing the data for Four Corners she chose to use FY25 data because FY24 was elevated due to the issue at Shaw's. She said the FY25 data showed a total of 2981-units which was \$58,879.00 in rates revenue and we have \$59,000.00 allocated for the FY26 budget. She said she reviewed the data and Ayer billed us \$37,590.00 in rates for FY25 and with the new rate increase in Ayer it would be \$38,544.00 with a difference of \$953.00. Mr. Berg stated according to the data we were just under budget in FY25 and looks like the same for FY26 so he suggested we wait another year and we monitor the situation.

The way the billing system breaks out is if a customer is billed 10-units, it will calculate 9-units and then 1-unit at the minimum usage and this system is crowding the invoices.

Ms. Crory presented a report showing that approximately 48-properties are being billed \$8.86 for zero water usage and those customers get charged a minimum fee of \$8.86. She ran a report and that is roughly \$1700.00/year. She asked the BOSC to think about it and maybe next time we raise rates and we try to capture through the rates.

Mr. Gmeiner asked the BOSC their thoughts on the application fees and if we should keep them in place. He said we currently charge \$400/Commercial and \$150/Residential. He said we could just leave it and according to the regulations we would have to have a public hearing to waive the connection fee, but with applications fees we could waive on an individual situation. Mr. Budrys feels we could come under scrutiny and Mr. Gmeiner agreed and said it would come down to if we are being equal all around. Mr. Berg said he thought if anything we could put a system in place where once you finish the connection you get a rebate.

Center Sewer District:

Ms. Crory said to summarize our discussion of the last meeting for FY25, everything looks good and she thinks we will be at \$500K going into FY26. She said for FY26 she has not heard back from Pepperell on what the monthly billing will be for treatment, but there were some talks of \$52K with a max of \$55K. She said we budget \$710K but she thinks we will be bringing in closer to \$740K, so we may have a little extra in rates. She said we were conservative on connection fees and only included two, but we may have more things happening. Mr. Gmeiner said that is good but we typically don't like to use that once time connection fee monies to offset the budget.

Ms. Crory said she is seeing the total income just over a million and then with the \$52K true up at \$624K. Mr. Berg asked if we are covered if the amount is \$55K. Ms. Crory replied "yes" that would mean an extra \$36K a year and we have \$624K. She said as long as the number was \$55K and we do not have a true up on top of that we are covered. As far as expenses Ms. Crory said she is coming in with \$966K so that will leave us an extra \$40K in income.

Mr. Berg made a motion to close the public hearing at 2:55 Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Mr. Berg made a motion not to increase the rates for Four Corners Sewer District and Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to leave the all-other fees the same and Mr. Berg seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Mr. Berg made a motion not to increase the rates for Center Sewer and Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

FY25 & FY26 Budget

Ms. Crory said while checking the salaries and wages sometimes its short due to the contract or other reasons. For Center Sewer we need a \$500.00 transfer and \$100.00 for Four Corners.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer \$500.00 from general expenses to wages for the Center Sewer District and Mr. Berg seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg–Aye and Budrys–Aye

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to transfer \$100.00 from general expenses to wages for the Four Corners District and Mr. Berg seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg–Aye and Budrys–Aye

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Next Meeting – July 2nd, 2025

BILLS SIGNED: No bills signed

MINUTES: Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of June 4th, 2025 as written Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg–Aye and Budrys–Aye

ADJOURN: Mr. Berg made a motion to adjourn at 3:07 PM. Mr. Gmeiner seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg – Aye and Budrys–Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant