

Groton Sewer Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Sewer Commissioners
Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025
Virtual Meeting using Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman James Gmeiner, Vice Chairman Eric Berg, Member Darius Budrys Business Manager Lauren Crory, Resident Judy Anderson.

Mr. Gmeiner called the meeting to order at 2:02pm. He stated that we are being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Mr. Gmeiner informed Mr. Budrys and Mr. Berg about the budget review meeting with the Finance Committee next week. They will try to attend the live meeting or Mr. Berg may join via zoom. Mrs. Crory will post an agenda.

Pepperell

Mr. Gmeiner said Pepperell is inquiring about a cellular alarm system at the GDRHS pump station. Mr. Berg and Mr. Budrys had some questions about why a radio system would not be sufficient since the cellular alarm will have a \$5,300 setup charge and \$447 annually. Mr. Budrys noted the setup charge would include equipment. Mr. Berg said a radio system may communicate through cellular and there may not be a cell tower nearby. Mr. Gmeiner will ask Mr. Brinkman for more information regarding this.

FY25 & FY26 Budget Review

Mrs. Crory reviewed the history of the GDRHS sewer billing since the new IMA has been in effect. The amount budgeted and charged to the high school has changed at various times based on budget preparation, estimates from Pepperell, and true ups. The Commission would like to set a procedure on how to handle changes to the amount billed.

Mrs. Crory explained that the High School was ultimately underbilled in FY2024 partially because the true up was not received until the end of FY2025. Alternatively, GDRHS was overbilled in FY2025 based on the most recent true up from Pepperell. Mr. Budrys and Mr. Berg suggested that we look at both years to figure out the “net” difference either owed or credited to the high school. Mr. Gmeiner agrees that at this point we should be looking at this as a whole but moving forward will be able to update the billed amount annually as we receive the true ups. Mrs. Crory will work up these numbers and then can update the Commissioners on the results.

Mr. Berg asked about amending budgets and Mrs. Crory said the latest it could be changed would be about September 1st before Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Gmeiner said that the expenses in the budget are the more important piece because we get authorized to spend those amounts. Mr. Gmeiner explained that how much we bill them does not affect the budget the same way. Mr. Berg understands but also thinks it is important to bill them as close to actual as possible.

Mrs. Crory said we have sent them some letters of explanation along the way. Mr. Berg said another letter explaining the procedure moving forward would be beneficial.

Mrs. Crory recapped that the plan is to look at how much was underpaid in FY2024 and what was overpaid in FY2025 and compare the difference to determine the remaining credit or amount due and work it into the remaining FY2026 payments.

Mr. Gmeiner asked how they handled the FY2027 amount billed to the GDRHS and Mrs. Crory said they used the FY2025 true up number and increased it by 5.7% which is the same and the increased treatment cost to Pepperell.

There was discussion on the GDRHS connecting to town water and if that will impact the sewer flow and usage charges. This will be something to monitor.

Other Business

Next Meeting will be December 17th.

Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of November 19th, Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gmeiner made a motion to adjourn at 2:45pm, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory

Business Manager