



Commissioners:
James Gmeiner/Chair
Eric A. Berg/Vice Chair
Darius A. Budrys/Clerk

Town of Groton Sewer Department
173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: January 21st, 2026
Time: 2:00 PM

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

Others Virtually Present: Lauren Crory/Business Manager, Ann Livezey/Assistant and Mr. Brinkman/Pepperell DPW

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

Pepperell (GDRHS Flows, 164 Boston Road, Dig Safe, Verizon & Final Copy of the IMA)

GDRHS Flows

Mr. Brinkman did not have a clear indication regarding the high flows at the GDRHS. He said he spoke to one of the contractors working on the water line and he was unsure. Mr. Gmeiner asked Ms. Crory if the new meters were installed and if you could monitor it that way. Ms. Crory told the BOSC she is waiting on the meter information to set them up.

164 Boston Road

Mr. Brinkman told the BOSC that they found that clean-outs and drains are plugged with concrete, making it difficult to access the plumbing system. They determined that while there is a potential issue with a foundation or perimeter drain, there is no evidence of sewage, as indicated by the absence of bacterial growth and gray material. Mr. Brinkman suggested two options to the property owner: either they can plug the pipe and live with the potential for freezing and water overflow, or they can line the pipe and obtain a permit for the foundation drain. He agreed to email the group with these options and decided against taking any enforcement action since there is no clear issue with their system.

Dig Safe

Mr. Brinkman said they have not set this up yet, but they are working on it.

Verizon

Mr. Brinkman said Pepperell received similar letters. He said they are looking into those circuits and he is looking into doing a radio path and if not, he was told that we can still do with Verizon with an upgrade of equipment and that would work for 2-3 years. He said they do offer some other service with better communication but it would not be a permanent fix. He said the cost would be about \$3k for each site or we could go with a telog system like we put in the GDRHS. He said that system is not cheap and the box itself was \$5k and the service is \$500/per year. He said we are now getting everything through radio or by phone so he will check with Charter Cable as well.

Final Copy of the IMA

Mr. Brinkman said he will reach out to Town Counsel and see what he can find out.

Annual Town Report

Mr. Budrys submitted a draft copy and the BOSC reviewed and made minor adjustments. Mr. Brinkman said he would work on the yearly flows and send them over.

Office Updates

Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC since Mr. Orcutt's retirement, there has been a shift on the Water Department side which resulted in some salary increases and the possibility of Ms. Livezey working an additional 5 hours starting July 1st, 2026. Mr. Gmeiner suggested having a discussion with the Water Department and asking them to take on some of Ms. Livezey's hours since she spends 1/3 of her time on Water related duties and is currently paid all out of Sewer. The BOSC will continue discussing after the Water Department meeting and they will have to make a decision before town meeting.

FY26 & FY27 Budget

Ms. Crory had no updated other than the connection fee income was more than we budgeted for since we received the fee from the UMass Memorial Project.

Other Business: Bills, Minutes, etc.

Ms. Crory said she received the receipts from 53 Wintergreen and the (2) toilet leaks have been repaired and the issue has been resolved. After reviewing the information Ms. Crory said the abatement would be \$537.18 and the customer was notified this is a one-time abatement they have been signed up for leak alerts.

Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the one-time abatement in the amount of \$537.18, Mr. Budrys seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys -Aye.

Next Meeting – February 4th, 2026

BILLS SIGNED: No bills signed

MINUTES: Mr. Berg made a motion to approve the minutes of January 7th, 2026 as amended Mr. Budrys Seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

ADJOURN: Mr. Berg made a motion to adjourn at 3:15 PM. Mr. Budrys seconded. Roll Call: Gmeiner–Aye, Berg-Aye and Budrys-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant