

Groveland Water & Sewer Commissioners' Approved Meeting Minutes

November 22, 2021

Attending: Chairman Jim Sheehan, Commissioner Jon Carl Bellinger, and Commissioner Jon P. Belle

Superintendent: Colin Stokes

Office Manager: Heather Torres

TOWN OF GROVELAND
2022 FEB -7 AM 9:09
TOWN CLERK
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Chairman Jim Sheehan opened the meeting at 4:03pm.

Well Exploration Discussion/ Treatment Discussion

Discussion between the commissioners and the superintendent: A water treatment plant will cost approximately \$20 million dollars however; a new well will cost \$7 million dollars. Spending \$7 million on a new well is an expensive gamble because we may pull minerals in the ground water. \$20 million is a lot of money but \$7 million is almost half way to the \$20 million. There is a \$3 million dollar buffer built in the estimate. President Biden just passed a trillion dollar infrastructure bill. We may be able to get some money to put towards a solution. The water and sewer department crew is licensed to run a treatment plant. If we were to advise customers to install individual water filter systems, we would be responsible to change filters per DEP. Customers think the issue is the old water mains. While there is 100 years of buildup in pipes, the water still has high levels of iron and manganese. A satellite well next to well one would cost \$3-4 million however; wells seem to have 20 year shelf life. Once a well begins pulling iron and manganese, it only gets worse. Strawberry field is an option however; we do not know what is in the ground. A treatment plant is the end game. Let us talk with Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra about getting funding maybe 10 million to offset cost to customers. If we do not receive funding from the state, then we will put it out to the people. Our manganese numbers are .25-.45 and we blend wells 3 and 4. When manganese levels reach .45 DEP steps in and mandates treatment. We are toeing the line to DEP mandating us to take action. There is a test well with zero pollutants and two million dollars of ARPA money available the town people should be informed. Unfortunately, timeline does not work with the water treatment plant timeline and the Board of Selectmen have to approve and allocate ARPA funding money in December. While there is clean water at well 1, we still have to pipe it and blend wells 3 and 4. In 20 years, the town has grown and more water is being used. Well 4 is the newest well. It was installed in the 90s. A water treatment plant is the solution. DEP will not give us the permit until we have the funding. If we vote to do the water treatment plant, at town meeting raise and appropriate 20 million; it can be supported or squashed on the floor. There are no studies that show how many years a well will last: it could be 1 year or 20 years. It is in the best interest of customers and town is to build a water treatment plant. We could put all three options in front of the town via survey: 5 million for a satellite well which will pump water with no iron or manganese but high levels of PFAS but wells three and four are still running and those are the wells that pull high levels of iron and manganese, spend \$7 million for a new well however it could pull iron and manganese in one year or in 20 years, or spend \$20 million to build a water treatment plant that will

filter out the iron and manganese. The first step is to submit the water treatment plant study to Senator Tarr and to meet with Senator Tarr and Representative Mirra to see if funding is available.

Discussion about ARPA Funding Request

ARPA funding not applicable to wells and treatment due to timeline and amount of funds available. The Water and Sewer Department will request ARPA money to complete a pipe project. The water mains on Balch, Wood, and Lanen need to be replaced. Replacing the main on Wood Street or Balch Ave is our best option.

Haverhill IMA

Chairman Jim Sheehan will contact Bob Ward from City of Haverhill to schedule a meeting.

Sign Departmental Paperwork

Jim Sheehan signed payroll.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Jon Riopelle made a motion to accept the meeting minutes from November 1, 2021. Seconded by Commissioner Carl Bellinger. All were in favor.

Schedule Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Water and Sewer Board of Commissioners will be Monday, December 6, 2021.

Items not reasonably anticipated at the time of posting

None

Chairman Jim Sheehan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05pm. Seconded by Commissioner Jon Riopelle. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Torres