

Groveland Water & Sewer Commissioners' Meeting Minutes

January 9, 2023

TOWN OF GROVELAND
2023 FEB 13 PM 12:1
TOWN CLERK
RECEIVED/POSTED

Attending: Commissioner Bill Dunn, Commissioner Patrick Corr, and Commissioner Terry Grim

Superintendent: Colin Stokes

Office Manager: Heather Torres

Guests: Ryan Allgrove from Environmental Partners

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion to open the meeting at 5:01pm. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. All were in favor.

Budget and Warrant Articles

Ryan from Environmental Partners gave a brief overview of the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. Groveland does not have any lead lines. However, there may be lines from the main to meter that contain lead. First step is to come up with a plan. There is a \$200,000 grant available. Grant money is disbursed on a first come, first served basis. Environmental Partners will apply for the grant on our behalf. Commissioners would like EP to move forward with applying for the grant.

New Water Supply – Ryan gave a brief recap regarding well 1. The problems faced with a new well near well 1 are the bike path, the solar field and the power easement. These problems are called zone 1 issues. There is a new idea- exploring the land at Strawberry Field. We could dig test wells at Strawberry Field. If we get 300 gallons/minute, we could replace well 3. A concern is the proximity to the superfund site. A ground water model would be set up to see if we would pull from the plume. DEP preferred Strawberry Field because of grade. Commissioner Bill Dunn stated there is a rumor that town will develop Strawberry Field. Superintendent Colin Stokes stated that the Water Dept. bought land so we can put in a well. We drilled by the solar field and there is lots of water there. However, it is downhill from the plume. Pump test overview. The target date for the pump test is June 2024. Commissioner Bill Dunn asked what if we buy water from Haverhill instead of finding a new source. Would it be cheaper? Superintendent Colin Stokes stated that building a pump station and piping it in is more cost effective than buying water from Haverhill because we do not know how much they would charge us. Commissioner Terry Grim would like to do a cost analysis buying water from Haverhill. The problem is Haverhill is surface water but Groveland is ground water. DEP does not like switching sources due to fluctuating pH levels. The corrosion from the fluctuating pH levels would leak into water source. This is what happened in Flint, Michigan. Commissioner Bill Dunn asked do we absolutely need this well? What happens if we do not do it? Commissioner Terry Grim stated if something goes wrong, it will take years to fix. What if we lost a well? We want to show the residents that we're being proactive about this. Tell the residents that if this well works out, we can shut down well 3 which has high levels of manganese. This process will take about 5 years. We know well 3 levels won't improve but it could remain the same or get worse. Commissioner Patrick Corr left the meeting at 6:00PM.

SCADA System –The main system is located in town hall however, it is not secure. A new updated system would cost between \$550,000 -\$600,000. This system runs reports that we send to DEP every month.

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion for a warrant article for a new updated SCADA system and to use water and sewer retained earnings to pay for it. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. Two were in favor, one absent.

Brief discussion regarding the water and sewer budget for FY24. Water budget will increase .12% and sewer budget will increase .02%.

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion to approve the budget as the preliminary budget pending further information regarding bond debt interest. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. Two were in favor, one absent.

Water Ban Update

On December 12th the State Drought Task Force stated we were at a level 2. Previously we were at level 3. Northeast region is 3" lower than we should be. Commissioner Terry Grim would like to inform residents that "our aquifer should be at x level, it's currently at x level." People should focus on internal leaks.

Haverhill Wastewater IMA

No discussion

Approve Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 10/24/22. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. All were in favor.

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 11/21/22. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. Two were in favor, one absent.

Sign Departmental Paperwork

Commissioner Terry Grim signed departmental paperwork

Resident Correspondence

Discussion regarding leak at 1204 Alyssa Drive.

Commissioner Terry Grim made a motion to reduce the water charges, not the sewer charges, to bring the total due to \$800.00 for water and sewer. Seconded by Commissioner Bill Dunn. Two were in favor, one absent.

Items not reasonably anticipated at the time of posting

Town Administrator, Rebecca Oldham is gathering information regarding a splash pad at the Pines. She respectfully requested a discount on the water used at the splash pad. The Board of Commissioners stated that the dog park is charged standard water rates. Therefore, the splash pad should be charged the standard water rates as well.

The family of former Water and Sewer Commissioner Jim Sheehan would like to present a bronze plaque to hang on the water building. The board stated a plaque is ok.

Commissioner Bill Dunn followed up with the sign person. The backhoe is in. We have two operators and Superintendent Colin Stokes. This FY we will appropriate money for a new well. This spring and summer, the crew will tie-in all services on King St. Bill Dailey has been responsive with residents regarding the sewer project.

Next meeting will be Monday, February 6, 2023 at 5:00PM.

Commissioner Bill Dunn made a motion to close the meeting at 6:37 PM. Seconded by Commissioner Terry Grim. Two were in favor, one absent.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Torres

