

**GROVELAND WATER & SEWER BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
March 18, 2024**

A Regular Meeting of the Groveland Water & Sewer Board was held on Monday, February 26, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Main Meeting Room at the Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main Street, Groveland.

Board Members Present

Bill Dunn, Chairperson
Sarah Sheehan-McGrath
Terry Grim

Staff Members Present

Colin Stokes, W/S Superintendent
Danielle Albright, W/S Office Manager
Rebecca Oldham, Town Administrator

OPENING

Commissioner Dunn made a motion to open the meeting at 5:03 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath. All in favor.

CUSTOMER COMMENTS

None

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Capital Improvement Discussion

Commissioner Dunn asked if any quotes have been received for water line repairs on Main Street at Broad Street. Superintendent Stokes stated that while this project is important, the department has been busy with other, more pressing projects. This project was not included for funding in the FY2025 budget.

2. Federal Appropriations

Groveland Water & Sewer Department was awarded a Community Project Funding (CPF) Grant from Congressman Seth Moulton's office in the amount of \$959,752.00 for Capital Improvement Projects. The funds are restricted to infrastructure repairs on Wood Street, Balch Ave., and Washington Street. The Board will need to prioritize the three projects and determine where will be the best place to invest those funds. Superintendent Stokes outlined the positive and negative outcomes of each project and a brief discussion followed. The money will be allocated to the department within the next few months. Superintendent Stokes notified the Board that the FY25 CPF Grant application has already been submitted by the department for projects on Lannen Ave, King Street and interconnections with neighboring towns.

3. Salem Street Permit Discussion

Commissioner Dunn asked for an update on Bill Daley's 40B project on Salem Street. There was an agreement between the water department and Mr. Daley which stated that he would reimburse the department for the cost to repair Murray Ave and Murray Court after cutting through to connect to Town water. Mr. Daley took temporary ownership of those streets until May 15, 2024, at which time he will be writing a check to the department to cover the cost of road repairs. Commissioner Dunn is seeking reassurance that the agreement will be honored. Superintendent Stokes mentioned Mr. Daley had requested to be present at the meeting tonight, though he was ultimately unable to attend, but he plans to be on the agenda at the next meeting in April. Superintendent Stokes offered further updates on sewer work completed at the site, which includes both the departments' lines to the curb and on-site work, though the two pieces haven't been connected yet. Water lines have been connected from Nelson Street onto the property.

4. King Street Timeline

Summer 2024 the department will be tying in all the houses on King Street from Center Street to Katie Lane. The water and sewer department crew members will work with the developer, who will handle excavation.

5. Haverhill Water Discussion

Commissioner Dunn provided a brief summary of the on-going Haverhill Water Discussion stating that the department is considering purchasing water from Haverhill to possibly off set the cost of building a water treatment plant. An alternative water source or treatment is necessary because of the changing PFAS regulations from DEP. The Board is currently working with Superintendent Stokes, Town Engineers, and the City of Haverhill to produce a cost benefit analysis of both purchasing water and building a treatment plant. Superintendent Stokes provided an update, stating that he met with Ryan Allgrove from Environmental Partners and representatives from Haverhill to develop a scope of work for a feasibility study to see if it's even possible for Groveland to connect to Haverhill. Historically, Groveland has purchased water from Haverhill before and, while the infrastructure is no longer in place, everyone seems to be in agreement that it will be possible again with enough equipment and money. Haverhill's PFAS levels are below detection limits, and they already filter for iron and manganese. A Warrant Article is being presented to the Town at the upcoming Town Meeting to fund both a feasibility study with Haverhill and a pilot study for a treatment plant.

6. Union Contract Update

The crew contract has been finalized and signed by all parties. Superintendent Stokes provided a copy of the changes affecting the department. Commissioner Dunn asked about the CDL issue. Superintendent Stokes assured the Board that there are crew members with the necessary permits and licenses to complete work without hiring subcontractors. Commissioner Grim asked about the wage increase. Superintendent Stokes reassured the Board that the Town negotiated with the Union to ensure that salaries remained in line with the results of the wage analysis study completed by the Town last year.

7. PR Project Update

The Board was provided a copy of a press release which was developed by Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath, Superintendent Stokes, and the department's public relations firm, John Guilfoil Public Relations. The release provides an overview of the PFAS regulation changes and what that means for Groveland Water and Sewer. Subsequent press releases will include more details about specific aspects of the changes and the consequences the Town is facing. Commissioner Grim suggested some minor changes to the release for clarity. **Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath made a motion to approve the press release with the changes stated by the Board. Seconded by Commissioner Grim. No further discussion. All were in favor.** The Board agreed to allow Superintendent Stokes and Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath to continue to create future press releases without having to consult the Board each time.

8. Finance Board Discussion

Superintendent Stokes met with the finance board on Wednesday, February 28, 2024 to present the proposed budget. There were no issues or concerns.

9. Lien Release – 14 Harvard Rd.

Ms. Albright presented evidence of lien payoff by the previous owners of 14 Harvard Rd. The Board signed the release to be filed by the homeowner with the Registry of Deeds.

ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED AT TIME OF POSTING

None

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent Stokes provided an update on the SCADA Upgrade project and requested the Board approve the \$26051.40 allocated for software updates. This amount exceeds the limit of \$20,000.00 Superintendent Stokes is allowed to approve on behalf of the department. **Commissioner Grim made a motion to allow Superintendent**

Stokes to order the software necessary for the upgrade. Seconded by Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath. No further discussion. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Albright presented the minutes from the February 26, 2024, Water & Sewer Board meeting. **Commissioner Grim made a motion to approve the minutes from February 26, 2024, as submitted. Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath seconded. No further discussion. All were in favor.**

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Main Meeting Room at Groveland Town Hall, 183 Main Street, Groveland.

CLOSING

Commissioner Grim made a motion to close the meeting at 5:52 p.m. Seconded by Commissioner Sheehan-McGrath. No further discussion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Albright
Water & Sewer Office Manager