

West Groton Water Supply District
Minutes of the Monthly Meeting
January 23, 2024

Meeting was called to order @ 1:00 PM. The following were in attendance:

Bob Blood, Jason Kauppi, Josh West, Commissioners
Paul W. Curtin, General Manager
Dawn Priest, Treasurer

Review of the Monthly Minutes: The December 2023 Monthly Minutes were approved and accepted.

Review of Monthly Invoices/Treasurer's Report: The December 2023 invoices were approved and accepted.

Review of Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet: The Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 7/01/23 – 12/31/23 were approved and accepted.

Report of the General Manager

There was a water main break at the intersection of Pepperell Road/Kemp Street. Paul was able to immediately isolate the leak so that it was not impacting customers, allowing time to plan for repair more effectively including advanced customer notification. He had Groton Water Department and Shirley Water Department out with listeners to assist in pinpointing the location of the leak, however they were unable to do so. He contacted our leak detection specialist, Water & Waste Pipe Testing, Inc., who came out and was able to pinpoint the exact location of the leak, which was just below the gas line. Lagasse Trucking did the digging for the repair. Paul plans to do some additional maintenance/repair on this line when the new development off Pepperell Road ties in.

The Annual Statistical Report will be prepared in the next couple of months.

Lead Survey – The lead survey is due in October. The “pre-survey” survey has been completed, and requests completion by April. Paul will get clarification on timing.

Gate City Fence completed the remaining repairs from the microburst.

Matthes & Son removed several trees at the office, as well as the Townsend Road well field area.

Garage – Paul spoke with Jery Kucala (the contractor who built the garage) regarding expanding the garage to add an additional bay. We will need to get plans drawn in order to move forward. We will begin work on that in the Spring.

Consolidation of Bylaws

Jason shared a draft document which consolidates the Bylaws into one document, rather than multiple documents. The Commissioners and office staff will review the draft and any edits will be discussed and approved at the next meeting so that we are able to send to our attorney for legal review and include approval on the Annual Meeting warrant.

Other Business

Dawn shared information regarding potential adjustments to our rate structure and/or rates. We have not had any rate increases since 2018 despite increasing expenses. Changing the rate structure would allow for the highest users to absorb the majority of the rate increases, maintaining lower increases for water takers who do not use high amounts of water. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

Jason shared information about the discussion within Groton regarding removal of the dam by Rivercourt, and asked how/if it would impact us. Bob recalled that it was looked into sometime around the 1970s/80s and it was determined not to be worth the expense at that time. Paul does not believe it would impact us.

Cell Towers – Dawn checked in with Ivan, our consultant, for an update. He explained he is still working on gauging potential need. He will prepare some coverage maps to determine potential pole height, and reach out to discuss community outreach once that is complete. It was discussed that this more than likely will not turn out to be worth the investment to pursue and we would not move forward with presenting this to our customers, but we will wait for Ivan to complete step one of the process before making a final decision.

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:44 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Dearth

Clerk