

**West Groton Water Supply District**  
**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting**  
**May 9, 2023**

Meeting was called to order @ 6:03 p.m. The following were in attendance:

Bob Blood, Jason Kauppi, Josh West, Commissioners  
Paul W. Curtin, General Manager  
Lisa Dearth, Clerk

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

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

**Review of Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet:** The Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 7/01/22-04/30/23 were approved and accepted.

### **Cell Phone Tower**

Paul asked if we move forward with the cell phone tower now and we don't build the new Kemp Street tank for another 5-10 years will this have to be redone again? Josh said that is probably part of the RFP. Jason shared that if a cell phone company puts equipment on an existing tank we can decide how the cell towers go on the tank and they would have to move their equipment over to the new tank which would be part of the RFP.

Jason said we are still at the stage where we don't know and we won't know until we have someone like Ivan Pagacik who can guide us and come back with proposals. At that time, we can consider questions like that and at any point along the way we need to be prepared to say this is not going to work for us either because the new tank would have to be too high, land owners near the tank would not be happy or the tank can't support the infrastructure. Whatever the reasons we should have off ramps to be able say we can't do this. Ivan has done this before and he can probably do the work with us giving him the information we have in-house and come back to us with our conditions. Jason said the return on investment for this is big and believes spending the money to figure out what our opportunity is and the potential.

Jason asked if Paul thought we have the resources to do this because even though we hire a consultant it always creates more work for the staff. He felt as a board of water commissioners do we want to undertake this and move forward on this feasibility study and if possible get to the point of an RFP and expand the funds that we already budgeted.

Josh asked, as far as the community, will Ivan's proposal include what the advantages are for this immediate area? Is voting part of this as well? Jason said the zoning and special permits from the town would have to be figured out and put in the proposal. Would it be Ivan who does that? Is it our attorney? Ivan would be with us all the way though issuing the RFP and then review any responses we get with cell carriers and making the final agreement.

Paul said do we want to spend the 8k to see what our options are? Jason said we could call Ivan and ask if we get to a point where this won't work for us would his fee be less because he didn't go through the RFP or zoning process? Jason said Paul and Dawn should speak to Ivan because it's smarter to have the staff manage this rather than trying to go through the Commissioners. Paul can report back to the Commissioners with updates. Bob said we can get a lot of these answers before we hire an attorney to protect us and make sure it's all in the RFP so we are not footing that bill.

Jason made a motion to instruct the superintendent to move forward with investigating the possibility of putting cell towers on Water District property in order to generate revenue and to do so he should contract with a consultant and

spend necessary funds to research this and report back regularly with the understanding that there could be an offramp at any time. We want to take it step by step.

The motion was seconded by Bob Blood.

### **Vote**

The Board voted unanimous in the affirmative to move forward with investigating installing cell phone towers on West Groton Water Supply District land.

### **Report of the General Manager**

Paul said he will be performing water main flushing during the week of May 22nd. A notice will be posted in the Groton Herald on May 5th, 12th and 19<sup>th</sup> and street signs will be posted alerting the residence. Dawn will also post on our website as well as Facebook.

Lead and copper sampling will be conducted June to September. Paul will attend a virtual meeting regarding any changes in regard to sampling.

Paul sent in our Water Management Act Renewal registration from DEP. It has been accepted and renewed from April 8, 2023 to April 7, 2033. We need to adopt this into our bylaws, which we already have, but need to make sure we quote 310 CMR 36.07(2)(c). Paul said the other thing we are going to do this year is adopt 310 CMR 22 which is all the state rules and regulations as it pertains to backflow devices.

### **Other Business**

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting @ 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Dearth

Clerk