

West Groton Water Supply District Minutes of the Monthly Meeting February 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order @ 1:07 PM. The following were in attendance:

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

Review of the Monthly Minutes: The January 2025 Monthly Minutes were approved and accepted.

Review of Monthly Invoices/Treasurer's Report: The January 2025 invoices were approved and accepted.

Review of Profit & Loss Statement: The Profit & Loss Statement for 07/01/24 – 01/31/2025 was approved and accepted.

Report of the General Manager

- The service truck plow was fixed.
- There was a fire at H/V on February 7th. Alex noticed we pumped twice the typical amount of water which would be due to sprinkler system use. Groton Fire Department did not use any water.
- The last Bluebird Lane home service will be installed this week.
- Hayes Woods will be ready for service line installations to begin after the weather breaks. We have not received any applications for service yet.
- The hydrant at the end of Fieldstone Drive was hit and will need repair.
- We were approved by DEP to sample ten sites for Lead and Copper instead of 20.
- The DEP Sanitary Survey will be conducted May 14th. This is done every three years.
- We finally received a letter from the Conservation Commission with the conditions and they are also requesting us to file an RDA.
- Paul is covering for Shirley Water as backup while Brian is on vacation this week.

Other Business

David Doneski will be here next Wednesday to meet with Dawn regarding outstanding matters.

Dawn said we need to find a new auditing firm this year. Last year the firm we used merged for a second time with a much larger firm and pricing for the audit would quadruple. She will speak to our municipal advisor to get a few different recommendations and pricing.

Dawn is working on the Annual Reports and FY26 Budget. The only question would be do we want to put a placeholder line item for a new service truck. It was decided to do so. A draft budget will be reviewed at the March meeting.

Dawn emailed Takashi Tada to ask which department would issue permits for the rail trail extension. He said he is not directly involved with the West Groton Rail Trail Committee, but his understanding is the first order of business is to get permission from the landowner (MBTA) and the owner of the freight rights. The WGRTC will need to work with the Select Board to negotiate a lease on the right-of-way. Once they get through that they can move

ahead with some of the other permitting. The right-of-way passes through wetlands and rare species habitat so permits from the Conservation Commission and Mass Wildlife would be needed. Takashi said the Select Board might be the easiest to reach out to. Dawn previously spoke with Peter Cunningham, who feels the appropriate time to start having conversations would be when they start the engineering process. Jason suggested, at this point, instead of going to the Select Board, go directly to the Squannacook River Rail Trail Committee because they are the proponents of this and outline our position. Dawn will draft a letter signed by Paul asking them to keep us informed and that we have some restrictions/expenses that need to be considered. A copy will be sent to the BOS, DEP and the Conservation Commission.

Dawn emailed Charlotte Steeves to ask about the potential parking area on the former Brooks Lyman Land on Townsend Road. There is a restriction in place on that parcel to protect the WGWSD so we would like to be kept in the loop on this project. Charlotte replied there are no definitive plans, as of now, for a parking area on the former Lyman parcel but will keep us in the loop. Olin Lathrop emailed saying they have informally discussed adding a parking area on the Lyman Land. What is holding this up is the current frontage ConsCom has on Townsend Road. The parcel they didn't acquire, which had Brooks house on it, has a small triangle of frontage that ConsCom would like to purchase. Olin expects they will eventually end up owning it and he hopes to see the current entrance made a little more robust with a parking area added. However, the area he is referring to is highly restricted. Dawn will discuss this with Attorney Doneski.

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Dearth

Clerk