

West Groton Water Supply District Minutes of the Monthly Meeting February 13, 2024

Meeting was called to order @ 1:05 PM. The following were in attendance:

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

Review of the Monthly Minutes: The January 2024 Monthly Minutes were approved and accepted.

Review of Monthly Invoices/Treasurer's Report: The January 2024 invoices were approved and accepted.

Review of Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet: The Profit & Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for 07/01/23 – 01/29/2024 were approved and accepted.

Report of the General Manager

There was a water main break (January 25, 2024) in the same general area as the recent break (Pepperell Road/Hill Road). Customers called saying they had no water early in the morning. Alex went out to find where it was, starting with checking the area of the prior break. He was able to locate it and shut off the gates. Lagasse came out to do the digging. Paul and Alex replaced a section of the water main. Water service was restored to customers around 1:00 pm. The same customers were affected as the prior break, and once again were very understanding and there were no complaints. Re-paving was done the next day. No police detail was necessary for this break.

Hydrant Program – Paul is working on putting together a book of all hydrants in the district, including the make/model information as well as maintenance records.

There was a frozen hydrant on Hill Road. It was able to be thawed out and was back online with no damage.

The ASR, CCR and Annual District Meeting are all coming up.

Consolidation of Bylaws

The draft bylaws were reviewed and discussed. Dawn will make the agreed upon edits to the document and send it to the Commissioners for review. Once approved, she will send it to the attorney to review so that we are able to include a motion on the Annual District Meeting warrant to adopt them.

Other Business

Rates – The Commissioners reviewed the packets provided by Dawn at the last meeting. Jason would like to focus most of the rate increases on the higher water users and commercial accounts. Bob would like to adjust our fees/labor rates to be more in line with other towns. We will revisit the rates discussion at the May meeting.

Jason shared that the Community Preservation Committee is seeking to move forward with a feasibility study to extend the Rail Trail from Bertozzi to Cutler using CPA funding. This is expected to be discussed at the Groton Town Meeting on March 26, 2024. How this project may impact the District was discussed. It was noted that this would involve going through Zone 1, and people would likely be leaving vehicles down by the wellfield which would be an issue. We would need to install gates to prevent access both across the driveway to the wellfield as well as the driveway to the office. Unfortunately, this would also eliminate access for boaters who utilize it. We would also need to increase security, likely adding cameras and taller fencing to protect the wellfield from

trespassers. Overall, this would be a large undertaking and expense to the District. Paul will contact DEP to see if he is able to find out if this is something they would allow through Zone 1. If they would consider allowing this, we will need to start getting pricing for securing the area as well as contact our attorney for guidance in potentially opposing this project due to our responsibility to protect the water quality. We should know more about what the Committee is proposing after the Groton Town Meeting.

As there was no further business, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 2:51 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lisa M. Dearth

Clerk