



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

James Morin, Chair
Robert Burns
Christine Burke

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of April 10, 2014

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on April 10, 2014 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Morin, Chairperson Burke and Commissioner Burns.

Chairperson Morin opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Consent Items

Minutes of the March 13th meeting – Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of March 13th seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Appointments

- A. Solar Energy discussion (Mr. Fitzpatrick) – did not attend meeting
- B. Mendon Water Commission – to discuss contract terms – Chairperson D'Allasandro and Commissioners Cataldo and Watson came before the Hopedale Board to discuss their current contract. Tim stated that we had extended the contract until 2015, to be revisited every 3 years. The Mendon Board informed our Board again that they did try to find other water sources. Commissioner Cataldo was looking to have the contract rates reduced. He stated he is always looking to save the Mendon users money. The Mendon Commission was informed that the last decrease saved their department approximately twenty two thousand dollars over the fiscal year. There was some discussion regarding the South Main Street master meter pit which was not working properly. Hopedale needed to estimate 2 quarters of usage as the required meter needed was a special order. The estimated bills were estimated on spring time usage which is typically lower than the summer month usage. Mendon's Commissioner Cataldo stated the South Main usage was up this quarter where as the Dudley Road usage was down. Mendon Commissioner Cataldo stated they could be off in their budget numbers since they were going off prior bills. Tim stated he would send them usage histories and that now all meters are working properly.

Mendon Commissioner Cataldo asked about our policy regarding late payments due to electronic checks. Tim informed them that we mail checks back to the resident if received after shut offs have started. Mendon Commissioner Cataldo asked if the Board could discuss if there was anything they could do to help Mendon with the cost of water. Commissioner Cataldo stated he will no longer be on the Board after 10 years of service. He thanked Hopedale's current and past Boards. The Hopedale Board felt the current contract was sufficient.

New Business

- A. **Sewer Back-up Inman Street** – The Board was informed that there was a sewer back-up on Inman Street that was the Town's responsibility. This back-up flooded a resident's basement. The homeowner hired his own company to do clean up which has been reimbursed. Tim informed the Board that the homeowner was very good to us during this incident and that he is looking into the possibility of insurance options for possible future issues.
- B. **Weston & Sampson Update** – Tim informed the Board that Weston & Sampson are still working on the plant evaluation as well as the collection system O&M manuals.

Old Business

- A. **Water & Sewer Rates** – The Board was informed that a public hearing needs to be set for the next meeting. Discussion of raising sewer rate to \$5.99/100 cu.ft. Tim would like to see \$70,000 put aside in Retained Earnings for future engineering costs and upgrades. Tim stated that the majority of work service income was coded to the water department and is now being split ½ and ½ between water and sewer departments. Looking at increasing the water rates by 1.5% to each tier. Reasons for the increase are reduced Mendon rates and work service income being split with sewer.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to schedule a public hearing on May 8th at 7:30 P.M. to set the new water and sewer rates and to also set FY15 assessment charges, which was seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

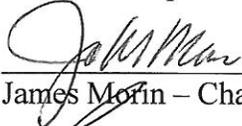
- B. **Mapping of Water & Sewer Systems** – Tim informed the Board that the estimated cost of this project decreased from approximately \$40,000 to \$23,000. Tim stated he spoke to the Highway Department and it was a good idea to include the drainage system at the same time. If the town can't fund this portion soon we will have to start without the drain mapping as required by DEP mandate due to time requirements.

Correspondence – None

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours – Commissioner Burke stated she spoke to an architect regarding solar panels. He stated he would be very leery of any 20 year contracts. He feels the equipment tends to deteriorate very quickly. Commissioner Burke feels we should make sure we are not responsible for wear and tear. Commissioner Burke stated this gentleman feels roof top panels tend to work better and he recommends buying our own system. Chairperson Morin and Tim stated they were under the impression we do not have to maintain the system. The question was brought up if we should add something to the contract stating they have to guarantee a certain amount of power.

Commissioner Burke made a motion at 7:45 to adjourn which was seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Commissioner Burke.

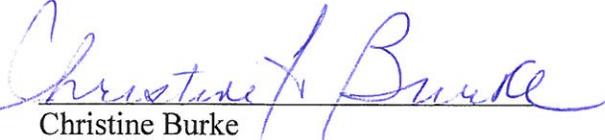
I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of April 10, 2014.



James Morin – Chairperson



Robert Burns



Christine Burke