



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

Robert Burns, Chair
Christine Burke
James Morin

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of November 13, 2014

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on November 13, 2014 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burns and Commissioner Burke.

Consent Items

Minutes of the October 9th meeting – Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of October 9th, made unanimous by Chairperson Burns.

Appointments

A. Mr. Joe Ellis – (seeking abatement and separate irrigation meter) – Mr. Ellis is questioning his high usage. Found that his irrigation system was running a few times a day during the summer. Commissioner Burke asked if Mr. Ellis could regulate how often his irrigation system runs. Mr. Tim Watson stated yes and that the residents did have his irrigation company come out, check the system and make adjustments.

Tim stated that he called other towns using second meters for irrigation systems. He stated we would lose approximately \$15,000 per year over time in our sewer revenue but our water revenue would increase. The home owner would also be responsible for plumbing, pipes and brass fittings. This could take a home owner 3 to 4 years to recoup that cost and believes not all residents with irrigation systems would request one. Tim informed the Board that he will look into this further and report back to the board prior to spring.

Commissioner Burke does not see us changing the rules and believes the resident used the water and must be responsible for his usage. Tim stated he would send Mr. Ellis a letter. He also stated that he does not feel adding a second meter will save the homeowners any money.

New Business

A. Town Meeting Articles – the Board was informed that the Water and Sewer Department has four articles going to Town Meeting. Article 7 is for the transfer of

land, modify lease with the Hopedale Country Club. Article 8 is for the acquisition of land by gift from Boston Sand and Gravel. Tim stated he is meeting with their real estate agent to show them exactly where the land is located. Article 9 is looking for a lease for more than 3 years for a solar project. Lastly, Article 11 might be passed over if we do not hear from Town Counsel.

- B. Leaks – the Board was informed of two leaks that have been repaired, one on Dutcher Street and the other on Depot Street.

- C. Water Main Replacement to Garrity Building – the Railroad Company and Mr. Shwachman from One Realty Trust swapped land. The old Garrity Building was fed off of Mr. Shwachman’s line. The Railroad disconnected itself from his line as required and is now fed off Depot Street. This upgrade allowed the Water Department to shut off a line that has been very troublesome in the past.

Old Business

- A. Wastewater Treatment Plant Update – Tim met with engineers regarding what we need to do in order to comply with our discharge permit. One of the main issues is the secondary clarifiers. Tim asked the engineers to look at this piece by piece. We should have engineering and design cost by February.

- B. Mill Street Wells (approval from DEP) – DEP has given us the approval to use these wells once we get the land required for the Zone 1 protection area. (Articles at Town Meeting).

Correspondence

- A. Roberta Spivack – 98 Laurelwood Dr. – Ms. Spivack had sent a letter to the Board stating that during a wind storm her outside spigot somehow turned on. She is asking for some relief on her next bill. Commissioner Burke stated she would not support making an exception to our rule. Tim stated he would write Ms. Spivack a letter and let her know the Board’s decision.

- B. Holly Alcainho – 182 Laurelwood Dr. – the Water Department went to the home at the end of October to install a radio meter. When the husband returned home from work he went downstairs and noticed water. The residents called Victory Heating and they came out and found a broken coupling that needed to be replaced. They are asking to be reimbursed for this \$231.00 invoice, Commissioner Burke made a motion to reimburse the charge and made unanimous by Chairperson Burns. Commissioner Burke asked Tim to send a letter and to state for future reference if an after-hours emergency occurs to call the Police Department and they will have someone from the department paged.

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours – None

Managers Update – discussed above

Chairperson Burns made a motion at 7:45 to adjourn and to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation not to reconvene, made unanimous by Commissioner Burke.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes November 13th, 2014.

Robert Burns – Chairperson

Christine Burke

James Morin