



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
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Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of July 23, 2019

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on July 23, 2019 at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt and Commissioner Burke.

New Business

- A. Discuss RR eminent domain hearing – the Board felt after attending the public hearing at the high school regarding eminent domain we should meet to discuss sending a letter notifying the DPU of our involvement. There is a 150 acres in question but unsure of the exact location. Unsure if it is the area west of the river or behind the Tradesman on Route 140. We had explored this area years ago but cost and being on private property prevented us from going any further.

Chairperson Burt asked how we monitor and/or control what they are doing?

Tim feels north of the Rustic Bridge is the best site to drill for a possible new water source. Regarding future sources, our options are limited.

Commissioner Burke said following up on Chairperson Burts question, if we don't have control over Zone II, we will have even less control over the water shed area.

Sandra Biagetti attended our meeting stating eminent domain may negate other possible water sites depending on where they plan on taking the land, Commissioner Burke stated yes depending where. Tim stated he wished there was a map to show the exact area.

Carol Mullen, also in attendance, feels the vagueness is causing concern.

Our intention is to ask for an extension. Time for the railroad to answer additional questions.

Sandra Biagetti asked if they mentioned how many trees would be removed, concerned if this is a flood zone. Commissioner Burke stated regarding the DPU notice, it acknowledged there would be substantial change to the land, trees torn down and fill brought in. The entire Draper area is in a special flood zone as well as the area behind town hall. Commissioner Burke stated we would need an engineering study done in regards to possible flooding areas.

Sandra Biagetti stated that she did ask Mr. Milanowski for an emergency plan regarding the fly ash silos. Her concern is how residents would be notified.

Tim stated what he could recall, the building inspector, Bob Speroni would not inspect the silo since he was not part of the original inspection and does not want to take on that responsibility. Concerns if the fly ash is a hazard, does the railroad need to notify anyone of a spill? How much is considered a concern?

Surface Transportation Board, EPA and DEP were sent letters asking for guidelines on the scope of authority to protect that source. These letters were sent months ago with still no response from anyone.

Our Board would like to meet with the Selectmen and the Town Administrator regarding our concerns

Chairperson Burt asked if we should have a fourth bullet point, being cost. Commissioner Burke feels it is a valid point but feels our costs are unimportant to them.

Commissioner Burke stated we need consultants with the expertise in eminent domain. We are currently in the process of an LSP peer review but it's a slow process.

The Board also feels that we need to concentrate on the water shed.

Bullet Points

- Current area does feed current water supply
- Trace study shows it's a very viable future source
- Concerns about future risks/contamination of our current supply
- Future options are limited

Commissioner Burke stated the railroad is not subject to current State or Federal regulations. Her understanding is if there is an issue under clean water/clean air there can be some controls.

Our ground water by-law dictates what happens behind town hall, the draper facility but not at the railroad and Tim was not sure about the Gerrity Building.

Close letter with request for a 90 day extension.

Tim to follow up on peer review

Chairperson Burt to follow up on fly ash inspection

Commissioner Burke will write first draft of letter

Letters to be put on webpage

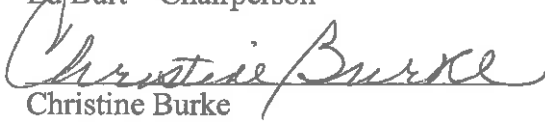
The Board is hoping residents will attend the meeting with the Board of Selectmen Thursday evening to express their concerns. DPU will not be in attendance.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to adjourn at 7:42 P.M. and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of July 23rd, 2019.



Ed Burt – Chairperson



Christine Burke

James Morin