



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners**

Ed Burt, Chr
Christine Burke
James Morin

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of October 25, 2019

Notes per Susan Brouwer, as assigned by Steve Sette:

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on October 25, 2019 at 10:00 A.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burke, Commissioner Burt and Commissioner Morin.

The meeting was opened by Town Administrator Steve Sette. In attendance were Selectman Chair Brian Keyes, Con Comm Chair Vanessa Calabrese, John Delli Priscoli and Michael Milanoski both from the Grafton Upton Railroad. After Mr. Sette made the introductions' he excused himself from the meeting, this being Mr. Sette's last day as Town Administrator, he wanted to finish up last minute items.

The Commissioners shared their concerns regarding well heads that are located near the railroad contaminants from Fly Ash. The Board requested information regarding site preparation, how ongoing spillage of material would be handled. The Conservation Commission stated that they share the same environmental concerns regarding Fly Ash as the Water/Sewer Commissioners.

Grafton Upton Railroad (GURR) stated that the rail line has been there since 1873 and fall under the Federal Interstate Commerce Act. They stated they adhere to strict Federal regulations. They are preempted and have the right to move products on their rail lines. GURR stated FRA standards are outsourced to an environmental firm.

The Railroad feel they are being targeted, stating they feel other businesses in the area have environmental concerns that we are not addressing. They want to be good neighbors and work with the Town. GURR stated they will submit reports to all parties required by law.

The meeting was adjourned around 11:15 A.M.

Water and Sewer Commissioners Notes:

Public W&S meeting with Conservation Commission and BOS chairs, and GURR President and Owner. Hopedale Fire Chief was invited but did not attend.

The purpose of the meeting was intended to focus on the transloading of Fly-Ash. Specifically, the fly ash silos, ground water area protections, and on-going monitoring of potential accumulated spillage and the fugitive dust located in the Hopedale Zone II.. The questions in the original letter dated September 3, 2019 which initiated the meeting supported two topics –

- Current protective measures, including emergency procedures; and,
- On-going monitoring to ensure water quality remains safe

GURR took exception to the letter itself, stating that they were being singled out, that W&S was holding them to a different standard than the Draper Mill. This triggered most of their focus on other topics – general history, the mill, STB letter, etc.

GURR stated that they do not intend to answer the questions in the letter, claiming RR transportation exemption. This was made clear by comments such as: “Don’t give a damn about your wells”, “town will get nothing from me”, “not my fault that town was stupid enough to put wells next to a railroad”. GURR also stated that they will trans load different products daily, weekly without notification to the town.

W&S reassured the RR that steps had been taken through other engineering reports to review, monitor, and address contamination issues in other areas of Zone II unrelated to the fly ash silos. W&S did state that they would not address matters pending in litigation between the Selectmen and the mill owner and we would not address the eminent domain proceeding pending before the DPU.

If silos had been in place, W&S would not have been allowed to place wells where they exist today. Because the wells are there, and the silos have been added – water quality concerns must be addressed. W&S position is that the transportation exemption does not override EPA laws concerning Clean Water Act.

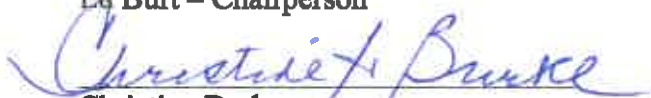
Throughout a rather contentious meeting, the following fly-ash specific points are worth noting:

GURR has emergency procedures and will provide the call number so it can be added into the W&S emergency procedures.

Regarding site specific preventative measures around the silos: Because GURR will not articulate any site specific preventative measures, W&S will assume that none have been taken.

Regarding Fly Ash quantities: Per Charah Corp, 45,000 tons have already been processed. GURR then stated the desire to do 10 times that. (Over an annual basis, or other time frame was not clear).


Ed Burt – Chairperson


Christine Burke



To be added:

Board of Selectmen Notes:

Conservation Commission Notes:

GURR Notes: