



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 January 9, 2020

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on January 9, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Burke and Commissioner Morin.

Consent Items

Minutes of the December 12th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12th, seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Appointments - None

New Business

- A. Mendon Water Request – Kevin Rudden, Mendon Commissioner came to discuss a tie in at 35 Cape Rd with contractor, Kevin Lobisser. Mr. Lobisser was interested in putting a small garage in the back of that lot. This area has always been a commercial zone. Tim asked Mr. Lobisser if it would be a 1" line in which he responded it would be. Commissioner Burke asked about Article 8, in reference to the 138 lots stating it references single family dwellings. We have made amendments to the contract to allow for firelines. Commissioner Morin asked if we could approve the front building but since the contract states if not a single family dwelling it cannot be replaced with anything different. Chairperson Burt stated the contract was written so we could meet our water demands. Mr. Rudden stated the Mendon's Commissioners only concern was that the zoning was the same. Mr. Lobisser stated the fireline approval was the important part and that he feels a well would work for the normal usage. Commissioner Burke made a motion to allow the Mendon Water Commission the authorization to allow a fireline at 35 Cape Road, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.
- B. Budgets – this was discussed after old business. Regarding the water budget, salaries were increased by 1%, but the line went up more than that due to stipends being added to the salary line. Tim will be meeting with the Finance Department on Saturday, January 19th at 9:00 A.M. to discuss water and sewer budgets. The testing line is being increased by \$7,000 but may not be spent. Telephone line increased due to tablet now used

quarterly for meter reading. Postage went up \$500 for new lockbox charges. Chairperson Burt asked if we should keep this expense separate at the bottom of the budget. Chemical line increased due to the fact that chlorine tanks went up \$50 per cylinder and we purchase approximately 150 per year. Tim stated instead of purchasing a jet truck he is thinking of purchasing a truck with a trailer. A jet truck will cost approximately \$160,000 to \$200,000. A pickup truck will be between \$130,000 and \$140,000. Tim has not scheduled any capital projects. Total water budget increased 3%.

Regarding the sewer budget salaries also went up 1%. The Board stated they would like to see the health insurance bill and a breakdown for the treasurer and accountant salaries. The Board would like to see the lockbox fees moved to the bottom of the budget. Composting line increased due to Synagro costs increasing another 2%. Chemical line has increased. Ken Webb will attend the next Board meeting to discuss how the upgrades to the plant have affected this. Sewer bond includes new plant. Capital projects includes new truck.

Old Business

- A. Clarification Statement (use of Counsel) Chairman Burt to discuss – Chairperson Burt wanted to clarify that the taxpayers were not charged twice for attorney's fees regarding the Railroad and eminent domain. The Water Commission concern was strictly the town's water quality and the town's water sources whereas the Board of Selectmen dealt with other issues.
- B. GURR Discussion – the Railroad will be putting in a new recycling center. Interim Town Administrator, Bob Reed was going to talk to the President of the railroad to ask if they would be using water, but we have not heard anything as of yet. Tim has also reached out to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) again and has not heard back. Chairperson Burt also had a follow up with Mr. Reed regarding the silos and the site prep but the railroad has not responded.
- C. School Bus Parking – Commissioner Burke wanted to make sure that residents know that the school has put in approximately \$60,000 to complete the school bus parking lot and that they paid for the entire project. Tim stated that they have been very good neighbors.
- D. Recycling Center Access Road – It was mentioned that the access road to the recycling center will have to move. Tim will send letter to the Board of Health about using the bridge again as their access road. They will need to have bridge repaired.
- E. I & I Update – quotes were received for manhole repairs. Tim would like as many repaired in 1 day, 57 have been examined with 6 leaking heavily, 2 excessively. Tim will find out cost of repairing the 6 that are leaking heavily. There is quite a bit of I & I near the Milford side of Dutcher Street. Chairperson Burt asked how many manholes are in town, Tim stated about 500.

F. WWTP Change Order II – Tim stated he received a letter today from Methuen Constructions attorneys. Tim, Attorney Deneski, our engineers Weston & Sampson, Methuen Construction and their attorneys will be meeting on January 14th. It should be clarified to Attorney Deneski that we did not contribute to the delay. Chairperson Burt stated he would email Tim regarding the line in the letter that the Board disagrees with so he could pass along to our attorney.

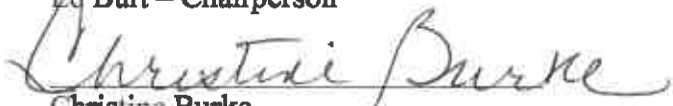
G. **Manager's Report** –It is being said that PFAS (polyfluoroalkyl Substances), foam that fire departments use could be contaminating water. We will have to test all our wells to see if there is PFAS in our water. These tests are very expensive. We have five wells and each test cost between \$700 and \$1,400. We also need to test the environment. Tim filed a survey to see about getting the tests covered but not guaranteed.


Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Burke 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 January 9th, 2020.


Ed Burt – Chairperson


Christine Burke


James Morin