



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 ext. 212
Fax: 508-634-2200

Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
Christine Burke
James Morin

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of May 8, 2020

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on May 8, 2020 at 10:00 A.M. in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Burke and Commissioner Morin.

Consent Items

Minutes of the March 9th meeting – Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of March 9th, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

New Business

- A. Steel Road sewer tie-in request** – Tony Claro, who recently purchased property on Steele Rd. is looking to tie into town sewer. His first option is to tie into Steele Rd. This would be a more costly option. He would have to approach the Steel Road Association, which consists of their other homeowners. Our responsibility would start on Adin Street. The second option is to tie into a sewer line that runs through the back of his property which is not owned by the town and currently has three residents that tie into it. Commissioner Burke asked if the other 3 homeowners realized that is a private sewer line and our responsibility starts on Freedom Street. Tim does not know and stated he knows nothing about this line including size and what it is made from nor does he know the condition of the line. Tim feels the House of Affirmation (now Riverside) was the first one of the 3 houses on this line, feeling someone did not file the correct paperwork. We individually bill water and sewer to residents on Steele Rd.

Mr. Claro along with his attorney, Suzette Ferreira from Attorney Consigli's office called in to discuss. It was stated that when looking at purchasing property last year he did not see an issue with tying into the sewer. It is a privately shared line that is shared between three residents that goes through Mr. Claro's backyard. Commissioner Burke asked if easements have to be recorded? Commissioner Burke also asked if he could tie into the private line on Steele Rd? Mr. Claro stated the line is 400' away, would be an issue with the gravity and would have to tear up the street. Tim asked if there was an issue with this private line and the shared homeowners don't take responsibility, what happens? Commissioner Burke asked Mr. Claro and his attorney, if it's private, then why are you coming to us? Attorney Ferreira stated they still need to apply for a sewer permit. Tim asked how we would approve a connection into a sewer line that does not belong to us? Commissioner Burke stated there are 2 options, connect through Steel Rd. or get a recorded easement. Commissioner Morin asked Mr. Claro and his attorney if the other

home owners realize it's a private line? Attorney Ferreira stated she doesn't know if they realize it's a private line or not, it doesn't matter, Mr. Claro just wants a permit. It was stated that the easement is shown on plans. Commissioner Burke asked if our other easements are recorded. Tim stated there are many other private easements that are recorded and he will put in a request to the Selectmen to use town counsel to look into the matter. Chairperson Burt mentioned that if Commissioner Burke is willing to write up a letter for counsel to review, it may save some money.

- B. **Chlorine Gas Leak** – Tim informed the Board that there was a major chlorine gas leak in a sealed room at the water plant in which Hazmat was called in. Hazmat's only job was to go in and shut off the gas. There was no effect to water quality. Someone came in the next day and stated that he felt the pressure valve on the wall had possibly failed. Tim stated at this point everything seems to be working fine but we need to know what happened. Tim is looking at replacing the media in the scrubber which did its job since it can only clean so much of the gas. The cost of this media is approximately \$8,000.
- C. **Draft Rules and Regulations** – Tim would like to make some changes. Increase tie in fees, correct wording on PVC piping and change the minimum call out fee. We would need a public hearing before these changes could be adopted.

Old Business

- A. **Budget Updates** – Tim informed the Board that all stipends have been removed from the budget. Tim spoke to Diana, new Town Administrator, regarding health insurance, indirect costs and the percentages for the Town Accountant and Treasurer/Collector. The water budget testing was decreased, which left an extra \$1,200 for SOC testing. Telephones went back to level funded. Salaries are level funded with the exception of Kyle Boucher, new water employee, who will get an increase once he gets his T2 license.

Transfers to the general fund are over \$200,000 between water and sewer departments. Commissioner Burt stated he researched the indirect costs and they have gone up by over \$75,000 over the last 5 years. The Accountant/Treasurer line was supposed to be 10% of salary but looks like the Treasurer went to 15%. Our agreement was 10%. General fund transfers have grown so we will need to continue questioning this.

The water and sewer assessments will have to be set in June for the July billing.

- B. **I & I Update** – is now complete, many issues were found and can be fixed within next fiscal year's budget.
- C. **Weston & Sampson Contract** –

Manager's Report – nothing additional to be discussed

Other topics not reasonably anticipated by chairman within 48 hours.

Chair Burt read the following statement: I am requesting a motion to allow this board to now enter into Executive Session and to not reconvene in regular session, under M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a) (3): to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

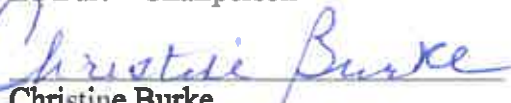
Roll call vote, Commissioner Burke – Aye, Commissioner Morin – Aye and Chairperson Burt – Aye.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to adjourn regular session at 11:00 A.M. seconded by Commissioner Morin 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 May 8th, 2020.



Ed Burt – Chairperson



Christine Burke



James Morin