

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 June 4, 2020

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on June 4, 2020 at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Burke and Commissioner Morin.

Consent Items

Minutes of the May 8th meeting – Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of May 8th, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Old Business

- A. Steel Road sewer tie-in request – Tony Claro, Steele Rd. property owner's attorney, Suzette Ferreira stated via zoom that she will record the easement with the Worcester Registry of Deeds showing the sewer line on Mr. Claro's property is privately owned and not the responsibility of the town. Mr. Claro asked if someone from the Water and Sewer Department could email Bob Speroni, Building Inspector to let him know that he is all set. Tim stated he will meet with the building inspector to sign off on paperwork but only after it has been recorded with the Registry of Deeds.

New Business

- A. Emergency retained earnings request (\$23,000) – this is related to replacing media. Tim stated that the Finance Department did authorize use.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to transfer \$23,000 from Retained Earnings to replace media, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

- B. Amendment to sludge hauling contract (Synagro) – Tim stated there was some good news. After sending out bid requests for sludge hauling and receiving none, Synagro sent us a revised contract. It included a 16% increase which is a hard number to budget for. Tim stated we will hold off on capital projects until end of next fiscal year to make sure we have the money.

Commissioner Burke made a motion authorizing Tim to sign amended Synagro contract, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Manager's Report – Tim informed the Board that he had 2 vacation carryover requests, John Schreiber for 40 hours and Mike Brown for 25 hours. Both employees realize they have to use vacation time before their anniversary date. All Board members were fine with the carryovers. Commissioner Burt mentioned that spreading employees out over Covid issues worked out great.

Tim stated he spoke with Attorney Doneski regarding the mediation schedule for July with Methuen Construction. People that will be attending the mediation will be KP Law, Tim, an engineer and 1 Board member. Commissioner Burke stated she would be happy to attend the mediation.

Tim informed the Board that the secondary clarifier was drained and found that paint was peeling off in sheets. Tim is having it sent to the lab to see why paint is failing. One of the punch list items is to reseed where they planted. It is all clovers, but we can not reseed until September. Change order #3 has been approved and Methuen sent in pay requisition, but they will not sign off until other issues are resolved.

Chairperson Burt stated we can now update the assessment charges since the total loan is now in place. Second part of the public hearing is to adjust connection fees and update outdated regulations. For example, tie in fees for sewer is \$1,000 we are recommending that they get increased to \$3,000, these fees have not been updated since 2006. Hydrant testing from \$100 to \$132. We will vote on assessments then adjustments to the rules and regulations.

Open Public Hearing for Amendment to Water Department Rules & Regulations, and to set FY21 Water and Sewer Assessments

Commissioner Morin made a motion to open the public hearing at 6:24 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

The Board is looking to adjust the sewer assessment from \$58.91 per quarter to \$70.25 per quarter. The sewer debt for the FY is \$579,703. This will calculate to a yearly increase of approximately \$44.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to increase sewer assessment charges to \$70.25 per quarter for FY21, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Water Assessment is currently \$52.81 per quarter and will remain the same for next fiscal year.

Commissioner Burke made a motion that we keep the current water assessment fee (\$52.81) the same for next fiscal year, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Chairperson Burt spoke about the changes to the Rules and Regulation, including adding PVC specs, tie in fees, hydrant testing, fees for turning water on/off etc. Two biggest changes will be

the tie in fees and irrigation/backflow device charges. We are required by the State to test. If residents are not planning on using the device it needs to be completely removed in order to avoid that charge. Consumers will get 2 bills per year, winter and summer whether the device is on or off.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve changes to the water/sewer rules and regulation, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Commissioner Burke made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:35 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours

There will be no executive session

Commissioner Burke made a motion to adjourn regular session at 6:37 P.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 June 4th, 2020.



Ed Burt – Chairperson

Christine Burke



James Morin