



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
James Morin
Donald Cooper

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of March 11, 2021

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on March 11, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt (via Zoom), Commissioner Morin (Town Hall) and Commissioner Cooper (via Zoom).

Consent Items

Minutes of the February 25th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of February 25th seconded by Commissioner Cooper and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Correspondents – None

New Business

- A. **Open Position** – the Board was informed that Kyle Boucher, Water laborer gave his notice. Kyle informed Tim that he loves Hopedale and his co-workers but is taking a position with another local town that is paying \$3 more per hour. His current position has now been posted in house and applications are due tomorrow. If no applications are received an ad will be posted in the local paper. Until a new person is hired, John and Dave, current water employees will have to be on call every other weekend. Tim stated he had reached out to Weston & Sampson regarding weekend help while Commissioner Cooper stated they had used Whitewater for this in the past. Tim is not sure if there is enough money in the budget to cover this expense. If we can't hire someone with a license, then we will have to train them.
- B. **Sewer Relining** – with Diana Shindler's help, all the paperwork with National Water Main Cleaning Company is complete. They were in this past Tuesday to do some camera work. A situation at the Draper Mill was found, one of the mains is in very poor condition. It was found that digging down to get access to cut and cap may cause more damage. Tim stated he spoke with Mr. Shwachman about all our I & I issues. Mr. Shwachman has offered to send a donation to the Sewer Department for future I & I investigation and repair. Chairperson Burt asked at this point is relining the best way to approach in which Tim stated it was at least until redevelopment occurs there. Commissioner Cooper asked about the I & I and what the camera showed. Tim stated he would send him the report to review. Tim stated Dutcher and Inman had substantial I & I while Northrop was substantial but not as bad as Dutcher and Inman. The Board will be informed as to anything additional found.

Old Business

- A. Budgets** – sewer numbers are still trickling upwards while water numbers are where they should be. Work Service is down about \$20,000 due to not doing shut offs but we are still within range. Ed is working on the commitment spreadsheets and will update and get to the other board members. We will have a second meeting with Finance to see where we stand.
- B. Well Exploration** – now complete with 1 remaining item, the quantity and quality test. One hole went down 26' and was getting 45 gallons per minute. Other wells met refusal at about 22'. Tim stated he would like to see fifteen 20-30 foot holes dug to test, not just 5. Other options are horizontal and angle drilling. Would like to get near wetlands to find the source. Also waiting for Phase 2 PFAS grant to come out, removal for PFAS, \$3M available and there are only 29 applicants. Tim stated he is not giving up on the area, Chairperson Burt asked if the area is not as promising as we had hoped. Tim feels it has more to do with money and trying different areas. Just a matter of finding that 1 hole. \$28,000 was approved and all the money did not go to drilling and if we can find 2 more wells that pump approximately 46 gallons per minute, 1 of them would replace the one we lost.
- C. West Street Update** – residents are surprised we don't own this land outright. There is still quite a bit of information not posted on the website. Chairperson Burt is working on a list of documents that people can look at and find these documents. We will need to take a little time to review the event log. Commissioner Cooper stated he hasn't had enough time to review all the documents. Commissioner Morin stated he is still reviewing. He stated it looks OK but would like a little more time to review. Commissioner Burt stated at our next meeting we could plan on spending some time on the website.

Manager's Report – Tim mentioned at the Finance meeting from the night before there was discussion about hiring someone to review smaller contracts. Tim would like to see town by-laws changed. If a job is greater than \$25,000 we have to go out to bid, but state is \$50,000. Tim stated going out to bid costs approximately an additional \$10,000. Diana stated we would like to bring this up at next town meeting to have that changed from \$25,000 to \$50,000.

Public and Board Member Comments - None

Chairperson Burt made a motion to adjourn regular session at 7:55 P.M. and move into executive session not to reconvene, pursuant to M.G.L. C.30A sect 21 (a) for items #2 and #3. Diana Schindler, Town Administrator to be present for discussion #2 and Diana Schindler and Tim Watson to be present for #3, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Commissioner Cooper.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of March 11, 2021.



Ed Burt – Chairperson

James Morin



Donald Cooper