



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
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Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of April 8, 2021

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on April 8, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. via zoom. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

Consent Items

Minutes of the March 11th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 11th seconded by Commissioner Cooper and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Correspondents – None

New Business

- A. Open Position – the Board was informed at their last meeting that Kyle Boucher, Water laborer accepted a position with a neighboring town. His position was recently posted in the Milford Daily News and on Indeed. Interviews to start next week and resumes looked good. Commissioner Cooper asked Tim once he narrowed down the candidates if he could take a look at those resumes.
- B. PFAS Grant – Chairperson Burt spoke about the \$200,000 grant we received from DEP. The three areas the grant lets us explore are removing PFAS, enhancing and continuing research for new sources.
- C. Reserve Fund Appropriation Request – we will need an additional \$22,500 from our reserve fund which has been discussed with finance. Commissioner Cooper asked about the consulting fees and if he was reading correctly. Stated it looked like ½ of the bill is for consulting fees. Tim stated he was only looking for the Board to approve the additional \$22,500. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to accept \$22,500 from the reserve fund to cover the additional costs not covered by grant, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.
- D. Water Resource Webinar – Chairperson Burt stated he attended a seminar that he was invited to by Attorney Peter Durning regarding regional storm water. Chairperson Burt felt the seminar was very interesting and will have material to share at a later meeting with the Board. He stated he now has a contact from EPA that he hopes to reach out to since we've had difficulty communicating with anyone in the past.

Old Business

- A. Budgets/Rates** – Tim informed the Board that \$100,000 out of capital planning was used for sewer relining. We tend to get more for our money when we do more linear feet. Tim would like to hold off next year and do double the amount in FY23. Chairperson Burt discussed the budget breakdowns. In the water budget the most we can request out of retained earnings is \$128,495 but that will leave us \$50,889 short. Some of the options mentioned to cover the shortfall were to decrease the emergency reserve request, increase rates to cover deficit and possibly move sewer retained earnings to water. Tim does not think this is allowed since it is 2 separate enterprise funds. Tim informed the Board that he has 3 wells down right now. In the past the Board had discussed increasing rates a certain percentage each year. The Board reviewed possible rate increases. Commissioner Cooper stated he would like to see the higher tiers getting a higher increase. Tim explained in his breakdown that every tier would see an increase. Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Morin would like top two tiers to pay more especially with water conservation, both feel it should be more than 2%. Tim stated he will review and create new spreadsheets with increases for the next meeting. Chairperson Burt stated possibly doing a small decrease in sewer and an increase in water. Commissioner Burt asked Tim if he had heard about Town Meeting. Tim stated it is scheduled for May 22nd.
- B. West Street Update** – Chairperson Burt notified the public that the court ruled today in favor of the citizens and read a conclusion from the judge. Chairperson Burt feels that this is great news and a big step in protecting the land. Commissioner Morin asked if this was an injunction or the final decision. Chairperson Burt stated that the settlement is on hold per conclusion but not legally sure of next step. He also feels other boards should have a say in this land. Chairperson Burt if any residents would like to speak on this. Liz Reilly, one of the citizens that filed the suit stated there is good stuff to come and wanted to thank the Board. She informed the Board that she would keep them posted. The Commissioners were asked if they were OK to post the log in which they responded they were.

Manager's Report – Tim stated they are still working with Draper Mill regarding cutting and capping lines. Tim mentioned a leak on the pond side but not sure if pond water or town water. Tim is thinking it is pond water due to the PH count. The relining project started today. Tim stated that Mike Brown is doing a great job at the sewer plant and is managing the budget very well. Also, the new employee, David Vickery is working out very well.

Public and Board Member Comments - None

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Cooper 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 April 8, 2021.


Ed Burt – Chairperson


James Morin


Donald Cooper