



## **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 July 8, 2021**

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on July 8, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall and via zoom. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

**Reorganize Board** – Commissioner Morin made a motion to reappoint Chairperson Burt. Commissioner Morin felt he did an excellent job this past year and has a tremendous amount of knowledge in areas that we are currently involved in. Commissioner Cooper stated he felt the same way.

Commissioner Cooper – Aye, Commissioner Morin – Aye, Chairperson Burt – Aye

#### **Consent Items**

Minutes of the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting which included the public hearing – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of May 27<sup>th</sup> seconded by Commissioner Cooper and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

#### **Correspondents – None**

#### **New Business**

**A. and B. Water Tank Grant Application and SRF Application and Possible Tank Locations** – a second tank would help increase capacity during slow times to use during high demands. This would be a \$2.5 million dollar project. Working on applying for a \$2 million dollar grant. We would need to contact Representative Auchincloss' office. The SRF application is due mid-August. Tim looked over some past studies and there was discussion of a second tank in Pinecrest. At the time they felt there was enough supply since we were purchasing water from Milford. At that time, Harmony did not exist. Tim feels another study is needed. Commissioner Cooper feels if there is still grant money then yes, we should move forward, otherwise, might be wise to put on back burner for now especially with all the PFAS issues going on. Draper Falls spoke about 500-600 units and asked if water was still an issue in which Tim stated "absolutely". Tim would like to allow the growth, but we need the resources. There was discussion regarding money from the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Program) study which looks at the needs of the town, but this could still be a year out. If study is done, that would be a step done.

**C. PFAS Draft Upgrade Proposal and Discussions** – the pilot test is now complete. Funding has been extended. Preliminary design showed it attached to the plant but

would have to move a lot of underground lines. Then asked about using the garage. Even though it's not high enough feel it's a good area. We could then build a prefab garage. Commissioner Cooper asked if this would help with the backwash issue and Tim stated it would. The state requires redundancy, may have to clean out once or twice a year but we would only need 1 filter, but we would like 2. Tim will discuss modifications versus new build with engineers. Commissioner Burt stated that there are 2 areas that still confuse him. Can we find a new source, would that be better? Feels this is all so new to the State, are we too far ahead of them? Commissioner Morin agrees and feels the same thing happened with the project done a few years ago at the sewer plant. DEP approved the system then after it was installed, they stated it may not work well in New England. Commissioner Morin stated he would like some sort of guarantee from the engineers regarding "or equal". We can go to Finance to show them what we have. We will need to do a full plan design. Chairperson Burt asked if we could apply for grant money for just the design or both engineering and design? Tim stated we want to move forward with water tank as quickly as possible and PFAS but at a slower pace. We would have to go to town meeting in the fall to get approval for the money. It would not mean we would need to use it. Tim mentioned that the Board of Selectmen would like to meet with our Board to discuss PFAS.

- D. **Tank Cleaning** – the raw water storage tank was cleaned by divers. There was 5 feet of sludge that took the divers 8 hours to clean. The clear wells we do every few years and the raw water we like to do every year at a cost of approximately \$2,500.
- E. **Collections Discussions** – we have not done shut offs in over a year. We did collect delinquent charges the last 2 quarters. Tim would like shutoffs to go back to our normal procedure. Two residents have asked for a waiver of the late fee and the entire Board agreed there would be no waivers. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to go back to pre-covid protocol.  
Commissioner Morin – Aye, Commissioner Cooper – Aye and Chairperson Burt – Aye

### **Old Business**

- A. **Sewer Main Relining** – this project is complete, will come back next year to test the lines. We will have to carry over 10% of the contract in order to do this.
- B. **Well Fields and New Source** – Tim wants to get good measurements and clean them. He would like to do a study of our own. He will have more for the Board in August or September. The vertical drilling on Bens Way did not pan out very well. This puts more pressure on the West Street land.
- C. **Discussion on Old Water Studies** – Tim found some old studies from 1977 with follow up from 1984. Felt some were interesting and would like to share with the Board. Chairperson Burt discussed spreadsheet he created regarding new water source exploration and how they recommended creating a reservoir.

- F. **PFAS pilot testing update** – PFAS pilot testing was submitted to DEP for proposal. Should take 2 to 3 weeks. There will be raw water PFAS testing done before and after pilot testing. This would have to be complete prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. We will need 1 project that we use toward the PFAS project prior to July 8<sup>th</sup>. Currently, engineering costs are about \$40,000.

**Manager's Report** – Tim asked the Board if he could carry over one weeks' vacation (40 hours).

Commissioner Morin – Aye, Commissioner Cooper – Aye, Chairperson Burt - Aye

**Public and Board Member Comments** – None

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 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 July 8, 2021.

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Ed Burt – Chairperson



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James Morin



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Donald Cooper