



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
James Morin
Donald Cooper

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of January 13, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met January 13, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. via zoom. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

Consent Items

Minutes of the December 16th meeting– Chairperson Burt had emailed 2 corrections prior to the meeting that were corrected. Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of December 16th seconded by Commissioner Cooper and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. All in favor, Morin – Aye, Cooper – Aye, Burt - Aye

New Business

- A. Mendon Firelines – discussion was brought up about allowing firelines to ones listed in the contract. Chairperson Burt remembers an account that wanted to go from residential to commercial. The domestic line was not approved but the fireline was. There was a fireline request on Route 16 that was denied. One of the Hopedale Commissioners felt we are not here for Mendon's commercial growth. Commissioner Morin stated he did remember the request and asked if the contract had changed. Commissioner Morin feels we should leave as the contract reads. Tim asked the Board about the Whitin Rd. development, Dan Byer employee for Mendon Water/Sewer stated it has always been commercial. Connor Downey representing Blue Water is looking to build a 200,000 square foot building in Mendon. Commissioner Cooper asked what was there now. Tim stated there is a water main that runs through the woods to Talbot Farms. Chairperson Burt stated he is not in a position to approve a change. Tim stated they should go to the Mendon Board and then that Board should come to us. A google map of 23 Cape Rd was pulled up to show the area. Mr. Downey then shared his screen to show the warehouse footprint. Mendon Commissioner Rudden stated that they have not given any approval on this project. Tim stated there is 8" PVC that connects at Cape Rd. Bruce Howe, a Mendon resident stated he feels this is a serious breach. Tim stated that Mendon is doing their due diligence in looking for other water sources and our joint contract may be expired but it automatically renews. Mendon Commissioner Rudden stated they received \$150,000 grant that will help them to continue to look for water.

- B. Budget Discussions/Capital Projects** – it's very early in the process. There will be a Finance and Department Head meeting this week. Tim informed the Board that Water Retained Earnings has \$199,300 and sewer has \$381,247. Chemical expenses have increased in both departments. Tim would like to work on some I&I projects next fiscal year. Tim plans on budgeted a 5% increase in salaries for FY23. He informed the Board that on call beeper pay went from \$125 to \$200 for FY22. Neither department was fully staffed at the beginning of this Fiscal Year so feels we should be good. Chairperson Burt stated that he and Tim would like to discuss a relining project with Town Administrator, Diana Schindler and the Board of Selectmen. Chairperson Burt stated he spoke with Diana and she is totally on board. We would also like to have the fixed media removed but will need to through DEP first. Tim informed the Board that he added a column on the budgets looking at this years actuals. Chairperson Burt went over his spreadsheets and explained how everything will now be in one place. Tim feels we will support our budgets for FY22, but would like to do another rate analysis.

Old Business

- A. Water Exploration Update** – looked at 3 wells with nothing significant. We may go back to the bedrock wells. Chairperson Burt asked if the company we were using had any hope. Tim stated that there was possibly one other time that this company has had no luck in the last 20 years of finding larger amounts of water.
- B. Water Tank/Land & Funding Options** – the land in question in Pine Crest was never properly transferred to the Town. It looks like Mr. Burrows still owns it but is still willing to turn it over. Hopefully deed will get recorded properly with no conservation issues. Chairperson Burt stated that the Town Administrator is moving along with the grant.
- C. Continued Discussions on Multiple Unit Dwellings** – Tim would like to table until next meeting
- D. PFAS Complain Filed** – we are now part of a large group involved in lawsuit. Chairperson Burt asked Tim to keep an eye out when they come out to look for specific sources.
- E. Draper Sewer Lines** – now that the building is gone there is a 12" main that is now open. Tim thought of filling it in but it's in a tunnel so he is nervous that if it freezes it may shift. Tim has ordered insulation for the 76-77 feet of piping. Commissioner Cooper asked what kind of pipe it was in which Tim responded it was cast iron.
- F. West Street Update** – Town filed a motion to vacate. The Railroad has filed their opposition. Will be posted on our webpage.


Public and Board Member Comments – Tim informed the Board that we received a letter of non-compliance late Monday or Tuesday. May issues had to do with aeration basins but

has been corrected. It took us four weeks in June to bring us back where we should be. Received 1 violation in June. In September we violated 3 parameters of our permit. This happened during Hurricane Ida where we received 7" of rain in 48 hours. Mike Brown, Wastewater Supervisor stated we will be responding quickly, hoping it is information seeking only. Mike to give the Engineers the information and they will reply to DEP. Tim feels if it was a huge concern, we would have been notified in June for a May violation not in January. We would like to speak with them regarding our dislike of IFAS and how we feel it is causing more issues. Just to remove the media will be a costly job. Mike stated we were cleaning out twice a year, but they get blocked so quickly we now do seasonally. Commissioner Cooper asked if there was a place on the reports to explain why the numbers were exceeded. Chairperson Burt asked if Weston & Sampson will be helping with the response. Tim stated they offered, we accepted. We are in non-compliance until they receive our response. Plant is working properly. Everything else is going well. Tim stated he will forward response to board before sending to DEP and EPA.


Manager's Report – nothing additional

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 8:15 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 January 13th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



Donald Cooper