



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 February 17, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met February 17, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. via zoom. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

Consent Items

Minutes of the January 13th meeting – Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 13th meeting. Commissioner Morin seconded asking first that the spelling of Mr. Burrows name be corrected, made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. All in favor, Morin – Aye, Cooper – Aye, Burt - Aye

Correspondence: Roberta Spivack, abatement request – Ms. Spivack questioned a high bill. Ms. Spivack had a toilet that was leaking as well as a humidifier that was not shutting off. Dave Butler went above and beyond by fixing the issues, spending approximately 2 hours at her house. Commissioner Morin does not feel we should make exceptions. Commissioner Cooper stated that he does feel for the resident but also does not feel we should abate the bill. Chairperson Burt asked if a payment plan was made and was told that it had. Commissioner Cooper made a motion not to accept the abatement request, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.
Morin – Aye, Cooper – Aye, Burt - Aye

New Business

A. January PFAS results – results are looking very good. Having the well shut off hurts with supply but helps with monitoring.

B. Upcoming Reporting and Inspections – Tim informed the Board that the Annual Statistical Report (ASR) will be complete this week. This report shows everything pumped, sold to residents and sold to other communities. This is an overall audit for calendar year 2021. The Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) is due April 30th. This report is a public notification that keeps the public informed. Lastly, on the wastewater side, we now have new regulations regarding SOC and COC as of July 1st, 2022. This inspection is scheduled for the first week of March. We must notify them of blockages that went into a drain, how we responded, how long it took us to notify residents, etc. It is a lot stricter. Tim is hoping DEP will come out with a new template for us to follow in which Dave Butler stated there is one. Commissioner Burt asked if there was anything unusual regarding the ASR this year versus last year. Tim stated that last

January's usage was a lot higher in comparison to this January, assuming it has to do with everyone being home due to Covid.

Tim brought to the Boards attention that the Railroad now has a container holding salt which is a Zone 2 violation which was reported to the State. A letter will also be sent to the Board of Health regarding the violation. Chairperson Burt asked if the Railroad will be notified and Tim responded since it has to do with groundwater protection, which trumps our by-laws, he will notify the Board of Health but not the Railroad.

C. Bedrock Well 3 Cleaning – as the well was being cleaned a piece of pipe broke off and fell into the well. The broken piece of pipe was retrieved and removed.

D. I & I Removal Proposed Regulations (314 CMR 12.04 (2) (d)) – any new developments that generate over a certain amount of sewerage will be responsible for the removal of I & I of a 4 to 1 ration. This will save the town money in impact fees in addition to tie in fees. This has been in regulation since 2017. Tim would like these fees to be put into a separate account in order to keep track.

E. 75 Plain Street – Tim feels they need to adhere to I & I removal even if not yet in place. He informed the Board that a letter was written to the Planning/Zoning and Conservation Boards regarding storm water and ground water plans. It stated if any contamination was found at 75 Plain Street the property owner would be required to clean it up. Chairperson Burt asked if the plans for 75 Plain Street were public and was informed that they are on the Town's website.

Old Business

A. Water Exploration Update – drilling should continue tomorrow. We are still hopeful water will be found.

B. Non-Response (WWTP) – the non-response has been submitted, we had 10 days to respond and now 30 days later and we still haven't heard.

C. Budget Updates – budgets are due tomorrow. Tim sent the indirect costs to Accounting and Diana Schindler to have them filled in. Salaries were based on a recommendation. The beeper pay increase also effects overtime. Stipends for board members will be put back in for next fiscal year. Regarding the sewer department we will need to decide what to do with Retained Earnings. When we upgraded to a new secondary, we now need to raise wares at a cost of approximately \$35,000. We would like to move forward with IFAS removal work with DEP, cost of approximately \$65,000 which would be engineering and DEP costs. We would also like to put \$100,000 towards I & I. Tim mentioned that a new roof will be needed at the sewer plant. Tim does not want to use any Retained Earnings from water.

D. PFAS Complaint Filed – we need to provide all our PFAS testing expenditures to date. Tim will ask monthly what is happening.

E. Draper Sewer Lines – the sewer line was wrapped with insulation.

- F. Draper Water Lines** – there was an issue with the water line, issues with demands due to leaks. Tim spoke with Mr. Schwachman, he had the fire line extended which allowed us to shut down the old line.
- G. Mendon Fire Line Request** – a request was made off of Cape Road. The requestor is willing to commit to a tap fee of \$200,000 to the Town of Hopedale. This would be up to our Board if they want to accept. Tim would prefer to run this by counsel first to make sure we are not setting precedents. Cape Road is lot specific per the contract and can not go from residential to commercial. Tim feels it is worth going to the next step and will reach out to Diana regarding memorandum to contract.
- H. West Street Update** – the Select Board did vote to appeal and has filed for appeal. We are still exploring water in the Mill Street area which is much more cost efficient. The responsibility of the water department is water exploration. Chairperson Burt will write a letter to the Select Board reenforcing our authority. Chairperson Burt stated he received freedom of information from the railroad. He will reach out to Town Administrator Schindler and Town Counsel.

Manager's Report – there was a primary clarifier malfunction, the bolt on the arm rusted and broke. It had to be shut down in order to figure out what had to be done. This will be fixed next week at a cost of approximately \$20,000. Tim asked them for a report of what happened. There is a substantial leak in Mendon that is to be fixed tomorrow. Tim sent out a letter to Milford Water and the Milford Water Board to see if they would be interested in a simple meet and greet or if they would like to discuss contracts. Regarding SRF, it looks like we were approved for \$7M for PFAS removal but we were only looking for \$3.5M so looks like it was doubled in error. We were denied the \$5.2M for the water tank. Tim feels the new water tank is more important than the PFAS removal.

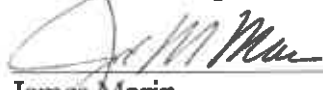
Public and Board Member Comments – Heather Lewis from Ben's Way spoke about 75 Plain Street and the Zone 2 violation. Tim informed her that the Board of Health overrides by laws when it comes to ground water. Peter Kennedy asked why the concrete plant left such an issue causing the new owners to spend so much money. Tim informed him that he was not sure when the issue with the tanks occurred. When land changes ownership it is the new owners' responsibility to clean it up. Nilton Machado from 4 Richard Road also voiced his concerns regarding 75 Plain Street. He is concerned about storm water and retention ponds. He was curious if they had additional backup plans. Tim explained nothing goes directly into the Mill River.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 8:44 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 February 17th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



Donald Cooper