



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 10, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met March 10, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

Consent Items

Minutes of the February 17th meeting– Chairperson Burt asked that a word be changed before the minutes are signed. Commissioner Cooper made a motion to approve the minutes with the one correction, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. All in favor, Cooper – Aye, Morin – Aye, Burt - Aye

New Business

A. DEP Inspection Update – Sanitary Survey went very well. Tim wanted the Board to know what a great job Dave Butler and John Schreiber did. They both sat with the state and answered all the questions regarding the plant. There were no issues other than that they would like to see a screen to cover gap near the roof on the water storage tank.

B. Raw Tank Cleaning – the tank will be cleaned this Monday. They will go on top and take pictures. If the screen to cover the gap mentioned above is an easy fix, it will be fixed at that time at no additional cost.

C. WWTP Primary Tank Repairs – the bolts on one of the rake arms came loose and made it unbalanced. It was repaired and should be all set. Approximate cost to fix was about \$20,000.

D. SRF Intended Use Plan (PFAS Treatment) – will wait for final numbers to come out then will have to decide. Looks like we were approved for 7.4M for the PFAS removal when we were looking for 3.2M. Tim stated if we move forward, we will need to prioritize. Three of the other wells are close to limit. We currently have 9 years left on the current debt. Commissioner Cooper asked when we have to accept SRF money, Tim stated as soon as final number is out, so around June. We do not have to pay back until after the project is complete. Commissioner Morin asked if the interest accrues, Tim stated he did not think so but would verify. Tim stated he would much rather the storage tank over PFAS. PFAS is currently in every well.

E. Milford Water Department Joint Meeting – scheduled to meet with original 1948 contract. Topic should be the ease of purchasing water when needed. We will be purchasing

water at a higher cost then we will be selling so not something we want to do unless completely necessary. If we do purchase water from Milford, we would have to follow Milford water bans or our own, whichever is more stringent.

Old Business

- A. Water Exploration – unfortunately the side of the golf course is not panning out. We will be putting the area back to its natural state. We will be checking other areas. An area between Rosenfeld and golf course as well as an area by the Rosenfeld Industrial Park. Seven test wells will cost approximately \$5,000. Tim would like to see if we can do this year. Tim stated the Select Board has not responded to his letter, but he was asked to attend their next meeting.
- B. Budget – Tim went over the Sewer department first, stating he increased salaries by 5%, due to a percentage raise but noting contracts have not been finalized as of yet. Sewer department could handle the FY22 increase since he was short an employee for most of the fiscal year. The energy line was increased from \$70,000 to \$90,000 stating that line has been short the last two years. Professional and Technical increased by \$12,000 for permit review. Composting was increased due to the Synagro increase of 3%. Capital Projects being increased for a number of projects including the weirs at the irrigation tank for a cost of approximately \$35,000, working with DEP regarding a pilot test for the removal of IFAS. Most of this work would be done in house with a cost of about \$65,000. A relining project at a cost of \$100,000 and another \$50,000 for #2 influent pump. Tim stated he would like to meet with Select Board, Finance and Town Administrator Schindler. Of the \$250,000 budgeted for Capital Projects, \$200,000 would come from Retained Earnings and \$50,000 from the working budget. Police Details were increased by \$1,000, Tim stated it was increased due to I & I work. Chairperson Burt stated we are not planning on increasing the sewer assessment or the sewer rates.

Regarding the Water budget, salaries and wages were increased by 6%, overtime being increased by \$14,000. One of the employees will be going for his Grade II license which will increase his rate of pay. Energy line was increased. Tim stated he tried to keep everything level funded or lower than last fiscal year. Decreased testing by over \$6,000 since we only have to test one well now. Police details were increased by \$1,000. Chemicals increased by almost \$22,000 due to the increase in chlorine gas. Chairperson Burt stated the total increase is minimal so not planning on increasing the water assessment and/or the water rates, if so minimally. Tim stated that the budget does not include any provisions for purchased water. Tim asked the Board to keep in mind that if there are water bans, usage will be lower and so will revenue. Commissioner Cooper asked if Tim felt working town to town (Hopedale-Milford) versus town versus private company will be easier, in which he responded that he hopes so.

- C. Sewer I & I – currently being completed. The Rules and Regs were reviewed and changes were made. Letter received from Weston & Sampson was explained to the Board stating we don't have to do individual homes, we can do tri-plexes or larger if we want. Commissioner Cooper and Commissioner Morin both feel it has to be fair, whether a developer comes in

and builds x amount of houses versus a developer building one house with five bedrooms or more. Commissioner Cooper asked what the next step would be. It was explained that the Board would have to make a decision then it would be brought to counsel for review. Tim explained this would be a policy that would help with costs. We can accept as is, we can adjust or we can say we don't want to start a new policy. Commissioner Cooper asked if we have discussed with other towns to see how they handle. He stated he would like us to contact some other local towns to see how they handle. Chairperson Burt feels we need to do to cover our costs. We will see how other towns are handling first.

- D. Mendon Fireline Request – a letter was received today regarding a lot in Mendon, we understand it's not one of the 138 approved lots. We are not approving any additional tie ins, we would need town meeting approval.
- E. West Street Update – Chairperson Burt's understanding is that the appeal went to mediation yesterday but failed to come up with a solution. The warrant article has been approved. We are looking to protect area for future water supply and how detrimental the clearing of this land would be. We would be against purchasing the smaller parcel. At the Select Board meeting it was mentioned if we don't purchase the smaller lot, we could lose right to the larger one. Tim stated we are looking at long term water supply. Commissioner Morin's concern is that they may not even give us permission if there's not enough land. Chairperson Burt stated he feels it is important that we speak at the Special Town Meeting on March 26th and he will do on behalf of the Board.

Manager's Report – Tim stated he will be watching the Planning Board meeting regarding 75 Plain Street.

Public and Board Member Comments – the Lewis family from Ben's Way stated they had 3 questions, the first regarding the well exploration between Bens Way and Bicknell and if it is complete. Tim stated it was just almost complete and the area would be put back to its natural state. Regarding the fireline and connection to Mendon, wanted to confirm that we would not give them water just the fire prevention line. They were told we would not be expanding the contract. Lastly, regarding additional well exploration. We will be looking for quantity and quality and a 10 day pump test can be done.

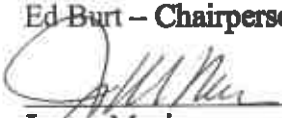
Bruce Howe asked about the Mendon fireline request. The Board explained that the Mendon Commissioners came to us for fire protection which is outside our contract. We will inform the Mendon Board that we are willing to provide them with the fireline as long as they go through all the required Mendon departments.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 8:43 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

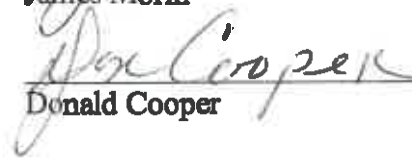
I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of March 10th, 2022



Ed Burt -- Chairperson



James Morin



Donald Cooper