



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 April 14, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met April 14, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Cooper.

Consent Items

Minutes of the March 10th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of March 10th, seconded by Commissioner Cooper and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. All in favor, Morin – Aye, Cooper – Aye, Burt – Aye

New Business

A. Water/Sewer Request Outside of Town – Tim brought up 2 properties that were looking to tie into Hopedale water or sewer services. Mendon Community Church located at 4 Harrington would like to tie into town sewer. The owner of 12 Westcott would like to tie into town water. Tim stated at one point all residents on Westcott and Ballou had the ability to tie into town water. At this point anyone outside of Hopedale looking to tie in needs town meeting approval. Chairperson Burt stated that Mendon should initiate water and sewer service with us and would have to go all the way to town meeting. Commissioner Cooper asked Tim what his concerns were and Tim stated the quantity of water. It was decided to table it for now and Tim will reach out directly to the residents and explain the pros and cons and see if they want to continue.

B. Milford Water Department Update – Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Tim met with the Milford Water Commissioners on March 23rd at 3:15 P.M. in Milford. Tim stated it was a good meeting overall. Milford will continue to let Hopedale purchase water when needed. They would like this done via a new process, hydrant to hydrant. The last item discussed was that Milford will draft a new contract for Hopedale to review.

C. Williams Street Water Tank Repairs – the screening project was finished at a cost of approximately \$25,000 the funds coming from the reserved fund appropriation.

Old Business

A. Water Exploration – drilled boorings from the well field to the golf course, every 20 feet was tested. The only viable area still being tested. Commissioner Cooper asked if this would

affect the other wells in which Tim responded that it should not. Tim would like to look into horizontal drilling more. Chairperson Burt emphasized the need of the new water tank.

- B. Sewer I & I (counsel Review) – town counsel reviewed and gave the green light to move forward being that we are not at maximum capacity. The charge will depend on the cost to remove the I & I and the number of gallons removed. Commissioner Cooper asked about single families and was told we could charge for I & I removal on every tie in but we don't have to, we have the ability to waive. This will be incorporated into our Sewer Rules and Regulations. Chairperson Burt stated that it has been tough getting information from other communities but was informed that was due to other communities not being at full capacity yet.
- C. Mendon Fireline Request (counsel Review) – the response from the Attorney is that everything is fine other than the rates. Tim has a change order in with Attorney Deneski.
- D. Budgets/Rates Discussions – water budgets were discussed first. Purchased Water up by \$80,000 due to the possibility of purchasing water from Milford. The pension and liability lines are estimates. Salaries are being increased by 6% for FY23. Commissioner Morin asked where 6% is coming from and Tim informed him that in the past, we have budgeted for a full timer but only had a part timer, but are now fully staffed. There is an overall increase to the budget of 7%, majority coming from purchased water. If not for purchased water, the overall increase would have only been 1%. Chairperson Burt went over the water rate planning and compared current rates to slight increases. He explained how the assessment side is looking good. It was explained that the possibility of having to purchase water could throw us off. Also explained the fact that if water restrictions are put in place, it will decrease revenue. The idea of smaller increases on a more frequent basis was also brought up. The Sewer budget is in a better position. They currently have \$150,000 in capital projects, they expected to use more towards the I & I project. Chairperson Burt asked about the repairs on Adin and Dutcher Street in which Tim responded he feels that may be out another year. It was decided to wait until the June meeting to set rates and assessments.
- E. West Street Update – Chairperson Burt's stated there was some confusion regarding court dates. All the current information will be posted to the website. Commissioner Morin asked if the railroad has stopped working on the land. Chairperson Burt stated in the past they have always honored the injunction, so he is assuming they are still honoring. A public request from the railroad was received by the town regarding speaking at town meeting, which they have already been given the video and the minutes were just approved. Tim stated he will talk to the Town Clerk advising her that Commissioners Cooper and Morin have no information pertaining to the newest public request.

Manager's Report – Tim stated the departments are running smoothly. They will be filling in the road that was created looking for new wells. Town Administrator, Diana Schindler reached out to Representative Jake Auchincloss' office regarding the storage tank we are hoping to have built. Tim had a conversation with DEP regarding the well that was

deactivated. There was a leak detected at 18-20 Oak Street, need to figure out if town or residents' issue. Since the sewers' composting number is lower than expected, there will be money to purchase a new mower. Looking into a new model vac jet that the company will be bringing to the plant to do a demonstration. Tim wanted to thank the highway department with their help filling in roads. This being Commissioner Coopers' last meeting the Board thanked him for his service.

Commissioner Cooper made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 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 April 14th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



~~Donald Cooper~~