



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
Adam Anderson

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of May 12, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met May 12, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Anderson.

Consent Items

Minutes of the April 14th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of April 14th and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

Correspondence/Appointments

Welcome new Water & Sewer Commissioner – Chairperson Burt explained the role to new member Commissioner Adam Anderson and welcomed him to the Board.

Reorganize the Board – Commissioner Morin nominated Chairperson Burt to continue as Chairperson, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt. Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Joint Meeting with Mendon Water Commissioners (fire service request) – Tim stated he received an email from Dan Byers from the Mendon Water Department, he stated their counsel does have questions but is currently on vacation. This will be passed over until our next meeting.

New Business

A. SRF funding for PFAS treatment removal (article for Town Meeting) – amount has been corrected to the 3.27M. First need to put article on town floor for town meeting. Total of 4.75M for PFAS treatment to remove PFAS. We were told to do for more than actual cost since it may take a year. It would be about 5 years before we start paying this. There may be some stimulus money available.

A Motion was made to support Article 7 – removal of PFAS contaminants from town water
Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

B. Final Design proposal and funding (article for Town Meeting) – the final design is not included and will be approximately an additional \$300,000. Chairperson Burt asked if it

qualifies for ARPA funds and Tim explained it would be more important to use ARPA funds for the new water tank.

A motion was made to support Article 8, short term borrowing of \$300,000 for the design of DEP required upgrades.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

C. Prior Year bill for town meeting – A Weston & Sampson invoice was received late and was not processed prior to year end cut off date.

D. Vacation carry over request (Mike Brown) – Mike Brown requested to carry over 5 days to be used end of May to visit his daughter.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve Mike Brown to carry over 5 vacation days.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Old Business

A. New Water Tank – a new water tank would aid to store water before high demand arrives and the need to turn wells off due to PFAS. Tim stressed the importance of this project. The use of ARPA funds has been approved by the Select Board. Commissioner Anderson asked once all wells are up and running would this storage tank still be beneficial. Tim stated that it would be helpful for fire suppression or when wells are being cleaned, etc. The cost of \$2M includes the construction of the tank which is a federal grant. Tim feels the next step would be a meeting with finance.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to ask the Select Board for \$165,000 in ARPA funds for the design of the tank.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

B. Sewer I & I (counsel review) – it was discussed that for every gallon, the builder would have to pay to remove 4 times that. Dave Butler, from the department stated that the lawyers just reviewed and made some changes but now all set to adopt. It was stated that it was hard to get information from other towns since not many towns are at maximum capacity. Commissioner Morin stated that he wants to make sure that everyone is treated equally.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adopt the new regulation for the I & I removal costs.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Tim to confirm with Diana that we are all set.

C. Budgets and Rates – Chairperson Burt explained the water and sewer annual goals, capital expenses to assessments, actual expenses to rates and budgets. The big hit on the water budget is for purchased water. Water budget is level funded other than purchased water, total budget of \$1.5M. Sewer Budget came in at \$1.64M, with \$150,000 in capital projects. Tim stated he would like to use \$100,000 from Retained Earning for these capital projects.

Chairperson Burt explained that according to the water rate planning tab that water will be short by approximately \$47,000 which will be made up by a small rate increase and revenue from tie ins. Sewer rates will increase a total of approximately \$12,000.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to increase water rates as follows:

0-500 cu.ft.	from \$16.50 flat rate to \$17.08 flat rate
501-2,000 cu.ft.	from \$4.40/100 cu.ft. to \$4.55/100 cu.ft.
2,001-4,000 cu.ft.	from \$5.06/100 cu.ft. to \$5.24/100 cu.ft.
>4,000 cu.ft.	from \$7.37/100 cu.ft. to \$7.63/100 cu.ft.

Water Assessment to stay the same at \$52.81 per quarter

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Commission Morin made a motion to increase sewer rates as follow:
from \$6.52/100 cu.ft. to \$6.62/100 cu.ft.

Sewer Assessment to stay the same at \$70.25 per quarter

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

- D. West Street Update** – Chairperson Burt informed his board that the Select Board decided to drop the appeal in the land court case. There is still a last action appeal at Superior court level with the citizens group. A stop work order was denied by the courts. Chairperson Burt stated the entire history is posted on the website and gave Commissioner Anderson a quick overview.

Manager's Report – Tim went over the water restrictions. Tim spoke with the Board about writing a letter to the residents explaining the current restriction and situation. Tim went over the different stages which are:

- Stage 1 -no outside watering between 9 AM and 5 PM
- Stage 2 -odd/even restriction, odd numbered houses can water on odd days and even numbered houses can water on even days as well as no outside watering between 9 AM and 5 PM
- Stage 3 -allow residents to water twice per week, odd numbered houses on Tuesdays and Thursdays and even numbered houses on Wednesdays and Fridays as well as no outside water between 9 AM and 5 PM
- Stage 4 -no irrigations systems allowed as well as the prior stages
- Stage 5 -no outside water allowed at all

Tim stated this will be posted on the town website and every time a new stage is implemented a reverse 911 call will be made. Commissioner Morin asked what stage we were currently in, Tim responded stage 2. Tim would like to order postcards with the stages to be handed out to residents. Tim explained that we will not stop businesses from using water for their liveliness.

Commissioner Anderson asked about golf course watering and Tim stated that they use river water.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt - Aye

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of May 12th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



Adam Anderson