



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
James Morin
Adam Anderson

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of September 8, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met September 8, 2022, at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt and Commissioner Morin. Commissioner Anderson came in for 7:00 P.M.

Consent Items

Minutes of the July 14th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of July 14th and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt - Aye.

Minutes of the June 2nd meeting – Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of June 2nd seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye.

Old Business

A. Water Treatment Plant PFAS upgrades – currently in the design process and we have explained our wants and needs. Tim has an appointment scheduled with the engineers. They are currently stating that we do not need backup with PFAS. Tim stated he will inform them that we want that in writing. The location of the preliminary design has been changed. SRF was approved for \$4.5M but DEP asked if we would consider cancelling our funding for this year and re-apply next year. Tim stated that no additional town meeting approval would be needed. A benefit of this would be that we would lose another year of debt. Chairperson Burt stated since PFAS is constantly changing this gives us a little more time.

B. Water Tank Update – surveying is almost complete and the best area to place the tank has been determined. The tank will be metal fused with a glass water tank which requires less maintenance. Due to cost savings, the entrance will be through Crockett Circle versus Freedom Street. Tim would like to meet with the two abutters and have them assist with the landscape design. The design for the tank should be complete mid to late October. Tim will be meeting with Diana Schindler, Town Administrator, next week to complete forms regarding the grant. Tim explained there can be significant savings for things such as clearing the land and digging trenches if we do the work ourselves.

C. Water Restrictions – currently at a level 3 ban and violations continue to be mailed. The rain has helped tremendously as well as the no watering Saturday, Sunday and Mondays. Sunday nights tend to be the highest usage time. The tank is currently full and some of the hydrants have been flushed. This has also helped us from having to purchase water from Milford. The offset to this is revenue is down approximately \$20,000.

D. Wastewater Upgrades – currently working on rising the weirs in the tank. The flow use to go left to right but now goes right to left so we need to correct the pitch. Currently in touch with DEP to do the study. The media may be giving some benefit but the snails are slowing it down.

E. 25 Cape Road MOA (to be voted and signed) – both Mendon and Hopedale's town counsel have reviewed.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the MOA for 25 Cape Road, fire suppression only.

Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

The Board signed and to be returned to Mendon Water.

F. West Street Update – Appeal may be heard in mid-September, currently awaiting specific ruling. The town and railroad are following judges' orders. Chairperson Burt to send new information for the website. Residual designation still ongoing and still being reviewed with email exchanges checking on the status. Commissioner Morin asked if they have a due date in which Chairperson Burt stated he is not sure but did ask EPA and is awaiting their reply. The Boston Globe ran a story in which Chairperson Burt was contacted for information. The Attorneys for the railroad sent another request regarding meeting violations. There is currently no action needed at our end. Chairperson Burt asked Town Administrator Schindler if he missed anything in which she responded that he hadn't.

New Business

A. Proposed New Position – this would be a position that would assist Chris from the highway and Tim. This position would be below Chris and Tim but would be an administrative position working on more technical items such as budgets, mapping, GIS system etc. But, in Tim or Chris's absence this person would fill in for their position. This person would be a liaison between Tim, Chris and Town Administrator Schindler. Tim informed his board that we are doing a lot of work outside of our area, for example, Board of Health needed testing done on Spindiville Pond. This took one of our employees half a day to complete. Commissioner Morin stated his biggest concern is cross over between town and enterprise funds. Commissioner Morin offered to assist with the hiring of this new position.

B. Concord Hazardous Waste – Chairperson Burt spoke about a visit they made to the Concord MA project which is a nuclear metal site that is being cleaned up. Part of that clean up

involves GURR as a subcontractor, transporting contaminated soils which is different than hazardous waste. These packages of soil come to the railyard then when train carts are full, they are shipped to Michigan. These packages are wrapped and sealed. The train cart is sealed as well. The EPA sees no problem with this knowing that Hopedale is a Zone II water protected area. There will be six 20-ton trucks cycling between Concord and Hopedale. This is a total of 12-18 routes per day over a 4-year period. This will not start in Hopedale until next summer. We are being told that they will avoid school times. Our concern is the increase in truck volume could possibly increase the fly ash. We still do not have emergency procedures regarding the fly ash. Tim stated that he does feel more confident after speaking with the contractor versus dealing with the railroad. Chairperson Burt felt good that they understood our concerns.

- C. Vacation Carryover Request (David Butler) – Commissioner Morin made a motion to allow David Butler to carry over 5 vacation days, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Managers' Report – Tim informed the Board that there are no major issues. The department has completed their first round of lead and copper sampling. The 20 residential samples that were taken were all in line. Sampling at the schools and daycares will be next. Regarding the wastewater plant, the flows have been historically low, with an average of 230,000 – 240,000 gallons per day. When the rain hit it went up to 1.7M, but after 2 hours it went back down to 240,000. Mike Brown, Sewer Supervisor thought that possibly manholes are flowing into our sewer, which we may do dye testing to confirm. Once we receive our retained earnings' number, we may be able to put \$200,000 or more into I & I testing. There was discussion regarding information the Planning Board sent regarding Overdale Parkway but we did not have time to adjust our agenda. Tim informed his Board that he will forward along the information to the Board and it will be put on our next agenda. Mr. Ricardo Lima, one of the owners of the Overdale Parkway land stated he has a meeting with Planning Board scheduled for October 5th and was hoping our Board could meet to review before that.

Chairperson Burt asked if any residents had any questions. Mr. Len Guertin asked about the signed MOA with 25 Cape Road in Mendon. Mr. Guertin was informed that we have a lot specific contract with Mendon. He was also informed that the developer is paying approximately \$200,000 towards the new water tank.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 7:28 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 September 8th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



Adam Anderson