



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
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Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of November 17, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met November 17, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Anderson.

Consent Items

Minutes of the October 13th meeting— Chairperson Burt would like one correction made prior to approval. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13th once the correction is made, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

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

New Business

- A. New water storage tank – with the Town Administrators assistance, we applied and received a grant of \$2M for a new water storage tank. One bid came in at about \$3.1M while another came in at \$2.1M. The lower bid is not American made products so we may need to get a waiver. Since this is a federal grant, Tim finds it unlikely that it would be waived. The lead time to deliver materials is 90 to 120 days. Quote is \$1M over budget, which may cause us to delay the project. We also received a new contract from Milford Water Company which will help in tough times. All quotes are based on real time. Using US steel will cost approximately an extra \$1M which is extreme on a \$2M project. Chairperson Burt feels since we now have an EPA contact, we should reach out and push the point and have the engineers continue with the waiver. He feels we can not be the only town dealing with these issues. There is a meeting scheduled for next week that Tim would like the engineers included on. After the meeting, we can then decide on the next step.
- B. Truck Repairs – needed to replace the entire fuel line on one of our trucks at a cost of \$11,000. We only had a \$7,000 budgeted for auto repairs.
- C. Sewer Department job opening – Marc Wing from the Sewer Department accepted a job in another town leaving an open position in Hopedale. The position has been advertised in house and online. Someone came in to discuss this position and Mike Brown took him around the sewer plant. Mike mentioned that Marc did do a lot of the lab work. He is hoping to move his current employee David Vickery into Marc's position increase his pay and give him additional responsibilities. Some of these additional responsibilities will be to learn the

labs and being in charge of maintenance. This new employee would then take over David Vickery's position.

D. Sewer Department new permit – we were issued a new permit, a draft permit since Hopedale falls below 1M gallons per day. Some of the tests that had to be done once a month now have to be done twice a month. Were hoping the aluminum number would have been increased but it was not. The ammonia number is also a little stricter. Mike Brown has a spreadsheet of the new levels.

E. Toxicity testing - we had a quarterly failure in October which we feel was caused by fleas. We performed an acute test which was perfect so makes it difficult to pinpoint the exact problem. Mike Brown will try to schedule a three-day test. If we pass, we won't have to worry about it. If we do not pass there is additional testing that can be done. Mike stated he spent hours going through these reports and cannot find anything. He did send a letter to DEP and EPA stating that we failed. EPA did respond by thanking us for letting them know. Tim mentioned the idea of splitting the samples into two batches and sending to two different labs. Mike stated he is looking for a second lab. He did find one in Vermont and will contact Alpha Analytical as well. Tim mentioned that Mike should reach out to Corey at Weston and Sampson for some suggestions.

Old Business

F. Water Treatment Plant PFAS Upgrades – met with engineers today to discuss piping and how the tanks will receive backwash. Tim asked about operational costs. Testing alone will be about \$10,000 which are beyond our control.

G. Hopedale Railway - Concord NMI site contaminated soils transport update: Emergency Procedures, site visit, DEP – Zone II restriction– there was a lot of detail given on how material goes from trucks to trains. Soils is coming from BSA site in Plainville. Nuclear metal wasn't suppose to start until next year but the Police Chief received notice that they were starting today. Without a permit it is hard to figure out what's going on. Chairperson Burt stated he joined the Board of Health meeting today and they plan on reviewing. He stated that we want documentation that we did everything we were suppose to at our end.

H. West Street Update – the State appeal was heard Tuesday, before a panel of 3 judges whom all seemed well informed and asked great questions according to what Chairperson Burt was told. The eminent domain case is still in the judges' hands. The railroad is still currently working up there and are now asking for well drilling. The railroad did submit a response. This is EPA's last chance to get info from them. Email sent clarifying a few things, such as that the EPA does not review or approve anything stormwater related. The Board is OK with posting this information on the website.

Managers' Report – Tim explained that the flows are extremely low, which is a good thing and will leave up to the Board if they would like to drop the restrictions. Currently, we are in a stage 3 ban. Tim feels it is more convenient to do a May 1st to September 30th ban.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to remove the ban for the winter, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Tim informed the Board that a new dump truck is needed at a cost of between \$55K and \$65K. He would like to hold off on relining but mentioned that the sewer plant is in need of a new roof. The mention of a new jet vac truck was also mentioned. This would be used to clean sewer lines, catch basins and main breaks. Looking at a lease of approximately \$370,000 which would be split between 3 departments.

Greene Street well #1, has a 7' long screen on top and when last cleaned there was a lot of sand. It was cameraed and a tear was found. We are doing more harm having it cleaned. This repair will cost approximately \$10,525.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to take \$10,525 out of the emergency fund to replace the screen, seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Tim would like to test for 1 possibly 2 satellite wells at the existing Greene Street wells. We are allowed to install satellite wells within 50' of an existing well without going through the approval process. These would be angle tests. Tim is curious what we can find for material near the river, stating we have to continue to look for additional water sources.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve Greene St. angle well testing, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Anderson – Aye, Burt – Aye

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Anderson – Aye, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of November 17th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin



Adam Anderson