



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 December 8, 2022

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met December 8, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Morin who arrived during meeting.

Consent Items

Minutes of the October 13th meeting – Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 13th and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Anderson – Aye, Burt - Aye

Minutes of the November 17th meeting - Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 17th meeting and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

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

New Business

A. New water storage tank – 3 areas to be discussed: engineer's update, residents' questions/concerns and federal funding update. Chairperson Burt introduced 2 engineers from Weston and Sampson, Nicole Lewis and Bruce Adams who joined via Zoom to give an update. Ms. Lewis stated she would have something to us in the next few weeks to review which will also include the electrical plans. Mr. Adams stated the design portion is almost complete. Ms. Lewis shared the site plans. Chairperson Burt asked if we include the water main in the bid even if we decide to do ourselves. Mr. Adams stated it would be all inclusive, safer for potential liability. Under the water storage tank contract there is mention of a gravel road with lawn up to it until it gets to town property as well as a fence around the tank. Tim asked if it would all be gravel and not paved. Mr. Adams stated yes it would be gravel in order to lower initial costs and we could always pave later. Tim explained that plowing gravel is not an easy task so he would like to include in the bid. Mr. Adams stated the tank will be built at same level as other one, 35 PSI is what we have to watch for. It is more difficult to take pressure away, when residents are use to a higher water pressure it is not something they want to give up. Tim spoke about a booster system which would cost about \$1,500 per system. Tim asked if DEP would approve this and Mr. Adams feels they would. Sixty thousand dollars would be better than \$400,000. Chairperson Burt asked if we would put this in as an alternate and was told absolutely. Commissioner Morin asked about additional cost of electricity to residents. He was told they could figure out approximate costs to the residents. Chairperson Burt stated he had 2 questions, he stated the EPA does look like we

can get a waiver but have to get the paperwork to them on time. Dave Butler stated he will get the paperwork to them as long as he gets budget breakdown and MEFA. Nicole stated they were about to meet on that and will let us know before it is submitted. Engineering fees have a cap that is higher than we normally see. Construction normally capped at 12% but if we have employees that can keep an eye out we could keep those costs lower. The federal cap is 12% but Weston and Sampsons is 14%. Mr. Adams stated they would get to 12% or lower to keep match down as well. As of our last meeting we were under the impression it was going to cost an extra \$1M but that no longer seems like the case. Buy American waivers have to be submitted by mid-January. Looking at doing 2 different waivers that could save up to \$1.4M on the project but would have to go through EPA. Mr. Adams stated that steel tanks do not require repainting, which cost more than the original tank itself. Another option is a concrete tank which is more costly than the steel tank. Chairperson Burt asked if any residents had questions, but no one spoke up. Dave Butler asked about indirect costs of 10% max and was told they would work with that. Tim informed Mr. Adams that the Planning Board meets once a month, which would be at the beginning of January.

The board decided to skip to E under new business – Zone II activities and H under Old Business – EPA Updates

- E. **Zone II activities and Old Business H. EPA Updates** – Kyla Bennett, Director of Science Policy from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibilities (PEER's) which is a non-profit company continues to highlight what is going on in Zone II. The company is located right outside of DC but she lives in MA. Ms. Bennett had worked at EPA for over 10 years in wetland enforcement. PEER helps many municipalities at no cost. She shares our concerns while trying to get EPA to pay attention. She informed the Board that she would prefer to have 1 point of contact. Chairperson Burt stated he does not mind being that person. Ms. Bennett stated she hasn't seen the site yet but would love to come out to see it. Tim asked if 45% of the bags are breaking, what percentage are landing on the ground? We have no idea since we are not allowed on site. Ms. Bennett stated she can not litigate for us but PEER does hire counsel. Ms. Bennett stated their strength is being able to navigate government agencies. She knows EPA and DEP employees. Chairperson Burt stated that just working together to get information is helpful. Chairperson Burt stated that we should inform the Board of Health and the Select Board that we are working with PEER. There is no need to get approval to use her assistance from the Select Board. Chairperson Burt stated the next step for Ms. Bennett would be to work with the multisector permit. The other Board members had no questions.

Tim was informed that we need to keep everything on file to cover ourselves. Chairperson Burt stated we will continue plugging away with what we believe. He shared the newest letter from Nuclear Metals with the other board members. Chairperson Burt stated he spoke with Jason McDonald who has been on site and spoke with Mike Milinowski. What we thought was a salt violation, Mr. Milinowski stated was sand. Mary Watson, Board of Health member was in attendance and asked what exactly is being kept there? What do they do to it to make it nonhazardous? Tim stated it could be absolutely fine, but we just don't know. Commissioner Morin asked if it shouldn't be halted if 45% of the bags are ripping, at least until it has been corrected. Chairperson Burt to send a letter out.

- B. New Hire – Dawson Potter started last Tuesday. He already has a grade 3M and is taking a class to get his 4M, then he will be able to be on call. Tim stated he was a very hard worker.
- C. Sewer Department Weir Upgrades - they were increased to approximately 18", which gives us extra storage in our aeration tanks. The pitch of the weir was off but has been corrected. Both aeration tanks will be up and running by tomorrow.
- D. Liens - Sandra discussed accounts that were liened to real estate for FY22.

Old Business


- F. PFAS testing/updates – David Butler, John Schreiber and Tim met with the engineers to discuss flows, backwash, chemical additions among other things. It was stated that operational costs would increase. We are testing quarterly for PFAS on finished water. We still do not have a new sampling schedule but are hoping it will stay the same.
- G. WWTP Permit Review– Tim signed the contract with Weston and Sampson. It will be reviewed and sent to EPA and DEP prior to January 25th.

Managers' Report – Tim informed the board that a hydrant was hit on South Main Street Thanksgiving night. He stated we will be upgrading meters over the winter. Tim asked the board if they had an issue with the water department helping the highway department with creating a 10-12 car lot at the Park Street School. Tim stated there would be no cost to our department and the board stated they were fine with that. Chairperson Burt asked if we were still flushing hydrants and Tim stated that it was all done. Tim spoke about the WWTP influent wet well stating it is between 12-15K per year to clean them out. He stated wet wells can be cleaned with a chemical and we could get a 3 month contract. If it works, the department could save a few bucks. If we do get the jet vac truck being discussed, we can clean the Greene Street wells ourselves since they are not so deep.

Commissioner Anderson made a motion to adjourn at 8:11 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 December 8th, 2022



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin

Adam Anderson