



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

Christine Burke, Chair
James Morin
Robert Burns

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of March 21, 2013

The Hopedale Water & Sewer Commission met on March 21, 2013 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burke, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Burns.

Chairperson Burke made a motion to open the meeting at 5:30PM.

Consent Items

Minutes of the February 14th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of February 14th, made unanimous by Commissioner Burns.

New Business

- A. Lead free brass rules – Tim informed the Board that new regulations are going into effect as of January 1, 2014. All brass fittings will be required to be lead free. We currently have approximately \$17,000 in brass inventory that contains lead which will not be useable after the January 1st. Due to this fact the water department has budgeted \$8,000 for replacement brass and will scrap all non-complying brass in the future.
- B. Water sewer clerk/town hall renovations – Discussions were held on the placement of the water & sewer clerk if the town hall renovations were to be approved. The original plans placed the water & sewer clerk in the general office with two of the Treasurer's employees with the Treasurer in a separate office. The Commissioners agreed to request of the Town Hall Renovation Committee that the water & sewer clerk be separated from the general office and moved to the office located next to the proposed elevator. The Board voted unanimously to move the water & sewer clerk to the separate office.
- C. Water main replacement, request use of retained earnings – The Board was informed that the Highway Department is scheduled to do road reconstruction on Nelson, Cook and Thwing Streets this spring. It was also noted that the water mains on these streets are in poor condition, have leaked a number of times throughout the years and are on the capital improvement plan for replacement. With the possibility to save considerable amount of money in road repairs if replaced now, Tim requested the board to authorize the use of \$18,500.00 dollars for the replacement of these mains to be funded from the capital reserve fund. Commissioner Morin makes a motion to allocate \$18,500. The motion was seconded and made unanimous by Commissioner Burns and Chairperson Burke.

- D. Rules and Regulations update (Water Department) –The Water Department Rules and Regulations have not been updated since 2008. Tim would like to discuss at the next meeting the rates and fees for services within the rules and regulations.
- E. DOR Bulletin (combining water & sewer funds) – Tim received a DOR bulletin that states we can combine the water and sewer retained earnings into one account, but budgets would still remain separate. Chairperson Burke stated that she does not see the financial benefit of combining them. Tim stated he will contact the DOR and ask if there are any benefits in doing so.

Old Business

- A. Budgets – The Board has a meeting scheduled with the Finance Committee later this evening. Tim is to ask Linda, Town Accountant, to have a separate line for heating and fuel. Per Tim most of the budget lines were the same as last year except for additional funds to replace brass and a decrease in purchased water of \$10,000. He informed the Board that the box truck needs a new transmission. Ken Webb from the Sewer Department informed the Board of some changes in their budget. He stated there is a large increase in chemical costs due to new rules and regulations. License renewals are up next fiscal year and those were included in the budget. He also stated there were no capital projects planned for next fiscal year due to lack of revenue.
- B. IFAST System/Brentwood (update) – Tim spoke to Brentwood and the replacement media is still scheduled for late spring.
- C. Conflict of Interest Law Requirements (Ethics law) – just a reminder that Board members must complete this training and return certificates to Janet Jacaruso, Town Clerk, before April 4th.
- D. Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman with 48 hours - none

Correspondence - None

Managers Update – Tim included his report

John Iacovelli owner of Emerald Irrigation asked the Board why irrigation testing has to go out to bid. Tim informed Mr. Iacovelli that DEP reporting has become very strict. Commissioner Morin stated he would like to see that whoever wins the bid be required to leave something to state that the devices have been tested.

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 7:20 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Chairperson Burke.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of March 21, 2013.

Timothy Watson, Manager