



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 June 13, 2013

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on June 13, 2013 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burke and Commissioner Burns.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to appoint Commissioner Morin as Chairperson, seconded by Chairperson Burke. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to appoint Commissioner Burke as acting Chairperson.

Chairperson Burke made a motion to open the meeting at 7:00PM.

Consent Items

Minutes of the April 18th meeting – Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of April 18th and made unanimous by Chairperson Burke.

Appointments

A. Arthur Switchenko, 14 Adin Street (water bill) – Mr. Switchenko came before the Board to discuss his large invoice after having 18 quarters with zero reads. Mr. Switchenko feels that the wire may have been cut when work was being done restoring the house. He stated that his well was installed in 2008 but Tim Watson stated that the disconnection from town water was done incorrectly. Chairperson Burke asked who installed the well and stated that party is who Mr. Switchenko may have a case against. Mr. Switchenko stated that he feels he should not have to pay sewer since it was for his irrigation. Chairperson Burke stated that we do not excuse sewer charges for people who fill their pools, wash cars, etc. and the request for an abatement was denied.

Mr. Switchenko was informed of the department's payment plan agreement and if interested to call Sandra.

B. Steven Guyon, 4 Soward Street (sewer repair, seeking relief) – Mr. Guyon and Ms. Linda Tuite inhabit the units located at 2 & 4 Soward Street. Mr. Guyon

stated that the sewer line was blocked at a connection which he believed was installed by the Town. Mr. Guyon and Ms. Tuite came before the Board to ask for help in paying for some of the job as they believe the town's repair was the cause of their issue. Tim informed residents that from the main to the house are the homeowners' responsibility. Resident stated that Gen-Wal replaced the line for the town and did the initial damage. Chairperson Burke stated that we have policies that we must follow and cannot make exceptions. Commissioner Burke asked who hired Gen-Wal. Tim stated he did not know but we would do some research to clarify the information. Mr. Guyon and Ms. Tuite were informed that once the research was complete we would schedule another meeting to discuss the issue further.

New Business

- A. Bristol Engineering (well field study) –Peter, a hydro-geologist from Bristol Engineering, came before the Board to discuss a possible contract. Peter studies the movement of underground water and looking for a possible location for a new well site. The contract states a flat fee of \$19,500; his expectation is to not exceed that amount. Chairperson Burke asked that a few items be changed in the contract which was agreed to by Bristol Engineering. Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve a contract with Bristol Engineering not to exceed \$19,500 which was seconded by Chairperson Burke.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to open the public hearing at 7:55 P.M. to discuss Rules & Regulations, Water & Sewer Assessments and Water Rates, made unanimous by Chairperson Burke. Chairperson Burke read the changes to the Rules & Regulations.

Change to Rules and Regulations.

Page 5, section 3 - meters

Paragraph 7 (insert)

When a discrepancy between an outside remote reader and the actual water meter exists, the reading and usage on the water meter will be used for computing consumption and billing as it is the primary metering source.

Page 30, section 9 A

Entry fee to dwelling: after cost insert (plus cost of meter, radio read unit and fittings)

Meter, \$110.00, radio \$118.00 service connection \$164.00, containment check valve \$103.00

Approx.: total 495.00

Page 31, section 9 C - Water main tapping fee. Change to \$200.00

(Present cost 100.00)

Section 9 G - Meter reset fee change to \$39.00 hour

(Present cost 27.00)

Section 9 H - change fee to \$39.00

(Present cost 27.00)

Section 9 I – change fee to \$45.00

(Present cost 50.00)

Section 9 J - change fee, under no notice to \$40.00

(Present cost 35.00)

Section 9 K - Replace water meter valve \$164.00

(Present cost 100.00)

Section 9 L - second estimated water/sewer bill: change to \$50.00

(Present cost 10.00)

Section 9 N - subsequent inspection \$39.00/hr.

Service call, after hours \$117.00 1st 3 hours

\$39.00 after 3 hours

(Present costs 32.00, 96.00, and 32.00)

Section 9 R: Backhoe with operator \$95.00/hr.

Compressor and or Utility truck \$25.00/hr.

Individual Employee \$39.00/hr.

(Present costs 60.00, 15.00 and 15.00)

Section 9 U - administration fee, after hours, \$117.00

(Present cost 93.00)

The new water rates are as follows:

\$2.95/100 cu.ft.	0-500 cu.ft.
\$3.35/100 cu.ft.	501-2,000 cu.ft.
\$4.35/100 cu.ft.	2,001-4,000 cu.ft.
\$6.45/100 cu.ft.	>4,000 cu.ft.

Only change was the rate for 0 to 500 cubic feet, all other rates remained the same.

Water Assessment was changed from \$30.82 to \$48.19 per quarter, an increase of \$17.37 per quarter. The Sewer Assessment was changed from \$29.35 to \$27.62 per quarter, a decrease of \$1.73.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the above changes which were made unanimous by Chairperson Burke.

Commissioner Burns made a motion at 8:00 to close the Public Hearing and reconvene to the regular meeting which was made unanimous by Chairperson Burke.

Old Business

- A. Water main replacement Nelson, Cook and Thwing Streets – Tim informed the Board that all water mains in that area have been replaced. All that remains are to tie in the service lines and this should be completed next week.
- B. Water Tank Painting – Shipview, the company hired to paint the water tank, is setting up their staging now and will start power washing, sanding, and painting the tank.
- C. I-FASS Media Replacement - Tim informed the Board that once the Thwing Street project is complete Brentwood Industries will be in to work with the town on replacing the media.

D. Other topics not reasonably anticipated by Chairperson within 48 hours – none.

Correspondence

- A. NuWater Inc. – Tim informed the Board that he received another correspondence from NuWater. Tim reviewed the NuWater issue with the Board. The 1st round of soda ash upgrades began in 2007. NuWater was the low bidder on the project. We have had issues with them throughout the subsequent years. We asked them to fill out a W9 which they would not. It was felt the working relationship was over until this letter was received in May 2013. Chairperson stated she feels the Town has completed its obligation under the contract.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to adjourn at 8:10 P.M., 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 June 13, 2013.

Timothy Watson, Manager