



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

James Morin, Chair
Robert Burns
Christine Burke

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of September 19, 2013

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on September 19, 2013 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Morin, Commissioner Burns and Commissioner Burke.

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

Consent Items

Minutes of the August 9th meeting – Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of August 9th made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Appointments - None

New Business

- A. Budgets – The beginning of the fiscal year has been very expensive as we have had a number of leaks including a major problem on South Main Street which occurred on a holiday weekend, short an employee and another on vacation thus requiring a contractor. Since this is a State road we were required to use flowable fill. This leak cost the water department approximately \$9,000. Tim informed the Board that DEP is requiring us to update our emergency response plan at a cost of approximately \$6,200 as well as the department's distribution mapping at a cost of \$5,500 to \$12,000 depending on how in-depth. A motor failed at Mill Street pump station, the motor itself was covered under warranty but we are still required to pay for the removal and replacement. The generator at the Moore Road booster station failed, it has been repaired and the department has since signed a contract for \$900 to have all generators checked and serviced twice a year. The service truck was repaired at a cost of \$5,500. An article will be placed on the Town meeting warrant to cover these unbudgeted expenses.
- B. EPA Discharge Permit – The new discharge permit for the sewer plant was received. There were very few changes within the permit compared to draft issued over a year ago. It was suggested by the department's engineers that we do not appeal the final permit, as they have seen a trend of communities spending considerable time and money on the appeal process with no favorable outcomes. It was discussed to accept the permit

with a letter stating that the Town feels the requirements of a two year time frame for design and construction, if needed, after the three year plant optimization period is unacceptable and unrealistic. If the Board agrees, Tim will provide for the next meeting the permit for signing, along with the comment letter. Funding was also discussed to deal with the mandates within the permit. Approximately \$105,000 is needed in FY14 to comply with the mandates. The board will be provided with warrant articles in October to transfer unspent bonded monies and retained earnings to the needed accounts to fund the project. Discussion was also held about combining the mapping for water and sewer departments under one contract in an attempt to save some money. Chairperson Morin stated he would like to see the water mapping detailed. His thinking is DEP may come back at a later date and say we need more detail which would cost even more. Tim informed the Board that he had increased the testing and chemical lines in the FY 14 budget to deal with the permit previously so we should be all set for the additional chemical and testing within the permit but updated sampling equipment and monitoring will be needed to stay in compliance with the permit.

- C. Possible impacts on water & sewer departments (Foxwoods Casino) - Tim does not feel there will be much impact on the sewer plant if a casino was to be built in Milford. The Milford Sewer Department is not expecting any capacity issues at their plant if approved. Regarding water, Tim is concerned about the availability of water if Hopedale does need to purchase from Milford under our existing contract. This scenario would also affect Mendon if Hopedale could not utilize Milford's supply. Tim felt if the Town had another storage tank this would alleviate some of our concerns along with additional funding for well rehabilitation and cleaning.

Old Business

- A. Mill Street – The testing has been completed and the results should be available for the next meeting.
- B. I-Fas Media Replacement – the Board was informed that one tank is now complete and the second one to be installed next week.
- C. Sewer Plant Grinders – New grinders were quoted and ordered for the plant. Delivery is expected in four to six weeks.
- D. DEP Inspection – The Board was informed that DEP was coming to the water plant on Wednesday to finish its inspection and test the alarms.

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours – Tim informed the Board that the new employee, Dave Butler, passed his grade 1 license after less than a month of employment.

Chairperson Morin made a motion at 7:40 to adjourn and go into executive session to discuss pending litigation not to reconvene seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Commissioner Burke.

Board was polled, Commissioner Burns – yes, Commissioner Burke – yes, Chairperson Morin - yes.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of September 19, 2013.

Timothy Watson, Manager