

**Hopedale Board of Selectman
Special Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2022, 6:00 PM**

Present: Chair Keyes Selectman Arcudi, Selectwoman Hazard, Town Administrator Schindler, Attorney Riley, Attorney Durning

Chair Keyes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Chair Keyes began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Hodgens, Jr., Chair of the Finance Committee called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:04PM. Present from the Finance Committee Colleen Strapponi, Elizabeth Callahan, Ken Wilson, Ian Michaelson, Chris Hodgens, Jr.

Ed Burt, Chair of the Water & Sewer Commission called the Water & Sewer Commission meeting to order at 6:05PM. Present from the Water & Sewer Commission Jim Morin, Donald Cooper, and Chair Ed Burt. Also present, Tim Watson, Water/Sewer Manager and David Butler.

Becca Solomon, Chair of the Conservation Commission called the Conservation Commission meeting to order at 6:06PM. Present from the Conservation Commission David Guglielmi, Marcia Matthews, and Chair Becca Solomon.

Chair Keyes stated that the nature of this meeting is to have a collaborative workshop pertaining to topics related to specifically the settlement agreement and how the agreement is part of Article 8 and Article 9.

Attorney Durning shared a presentation with the Boards regarding the special town meeting info session. Atty Durning gave a brief overview of the project for those who were not familiar with it. The land has been certified under Chapter 61 as Forest. He also explained what a “Yes” vote and a “No” vote would each mean.

Factors that influenced the negotiated resolution were the following and the opportunity to exert some control over development activity:

1. Litigation risk
2. Cost
3. With involvement of Land Court, STB, and eminent domain actions before MassDEP, strong likelihood of appeals.
4. Land is zoned industrial, and the Town has not taken any measures to secure or control the land.

Principles for Negotiated Solution:

1. Protecting Mill River watershed
2. Securing opportunities for exploration and development for new public water supply sources
3. Owning, controlling and preservation in conservation that largest amount of forest land possible
4. Obtaining concessions from GURR

Chair Keyes reminded the public that what was presented was the Towns side and there is a citizen lawsuit representing the other side.

Chair Solomon asked how many acres this is, and Atty Durning stated it was 64 including 44 that are in Chapter 61. 20 acres are considered Wetlands.

Presentations were then made by Both Chair Solomon of the ConComm and Chair Burt of the Water and Sewer Commission. Both presentations supported what Atty Durning explained during his overview. (For reference, all presentations can be viewed at [Stream Video - Town Hall Streams](#))

Chair Keyes expressed frustration that two boards had already voted down the plan before even getting to the Town Meeting. Chair Solomon expressed frustration that the boards in town had not seen a definitive plan and that viewing it for the first time at town meeting would not be valuable. Discussion of misinterpretation as to the nature of the evenings meeting took place as boards were under the impression that this meeting was an informational meeting for the residents not a meeting to debate small details again.

Chair Hodgens entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:52p with all members in favor.

Chair Solomon entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:54p with all members in favor.

Chair Keyes entertained a motion to adjourn at 8:55p with all members in favor.

The meeting dissolved at 8:55p.

Respectfully Submitted 10/10/2023.

Kelly Grant
Executive Assistant

Approved: October 23, 2023