



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chair
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Adam Anderson

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By Lisa M. Pedroli at 2:01 pm, Sep 06, 2023

- **Water Tank**

We continue to receive and review submittals for all the materials with the site preparation and clearing to begin mid-September. We must have the surveyors back on-site as some of the stakes have been removed. I instructed the Engineers to place granite bound makers on the corners, so this doesn't happen again. David, Mitchell (Town Administrator) and Stephanie (Treasurer/Collector) have finalized all the login information with the Federal Government portal. A big thank-you should go out to Stephanie for all her help in the process.
- **Water Main Installation**

By the time of your meeting, the water main installation will be complete. Temporary paving will be completed soon thereafter with final paving to be completed after 90 days to allow for sufficient settling. The process went well with only a few issues such as trash pickup and the type of material found when installing the mains. Crocket circle missed trash pickup one day, but the guys loaded all the residents trash cans in trucks, brought them to our dumpsters and returned them. The next week they moved them to Moore Road and back after pickup. The road material on Moore Road consisted of blasted ledge and very little gravel. This led to a wider trench and more suitable fill for the main installation to be trucked in. I am working with the contractor and engineer to resolve the issue. We may have a change order for paving, but I will keep you informed.
- **PFAS Treatment**

Design for the PFAS treatment continues to move forward. We recently had structural engineers on site to ensure the building can handle the weight of the solar panel system and I will provide you with a few options presented to us from the engineers. It basically will consist of the amount of roof cover you desire as well as different wattage panels. The front of the building will produce more energy and if installed on the back side it is estimated that a 25% loss on the panel's efficiency would be experienced but still be beneficial. Other than the solar, the final design is complete and has been sent to DEP for review and comments. After their review it will be sent to SRF for approval and funding prior to going out to bid.
- **PFAS Litigation**

There is currently a settlement number for the PFAS litigation. Shortly you will have the option to settle or continue the suite. David and I have a meeting with the law firm to discuss the options and process, but prematurely the settlement distribution to Hopedale looks to be less than \$200,000. There is also no mention of the cost effects PFAS has had on our department, which we will discuss, and the settlement is only based on the volume of water lost due to these chemicals. If we were to have sold water pumped from the well effected and deactivated due to PFAS, the revenue would have been greater than the settlement.
- **Check Vales.**

At the Water Treatment Plant, we had a check valve fail in both our residuals tanks and the main line check valve that pumps directly to the Wastewater Plant. Both were pulled apart and cleaned but due to the coarse type of material being pumped through the system, the pipping was to erode, and the checks did not hold. Due to this, we replaced the two check valves in the holding tank and the third that is located inline of the main will be replaced when additional parts are received. Currently the system is back up and running and being monitored frequently.

- Chemical Lines

Our Sodium Hydroxide feed system experienced a leak. Parts were purchased, the guys increased the chemical levels prior to repairs to ensure optimal levels during shutdown. Thinking ahead, the majority of the repair was assembled prior to this shutdown for time purposes. Once completed the piping around the leak was cut and removed, the new piping installed and the system back online. I simply wanted to let you know they did a great job and thought the repair all the way through.

- Water Service Line Replacement

We have begun service line replacements but unfortunately only two have been completed due to vacations and lack of personnel. With summer ending, we anticipate two per week moving forward.

- Lead and Copper Rule

As part of the lead and copper rule, we are required to complete a material inventory on all service lines in town. The inventory list will be required to be submitted to the DEP and in a format that they created. We received quotes to perform this service in the range of \$15,000. As an alternative we had training at my office to include Sandra, on how to fill in all the required cells. My thinking is that if one of us each day inputs 5-10 services cards a day it will be completed prior to the deadline with considerable savings.

- School Parking lot

Over the Summer we loomed, raked, and seeded around the new school parking lot we built. This is a completed project now on our end.

- Water Exploration

We had four test wells drilled to observe material and depth around the current Greene Street well site. Of the four, one area is of interest. The depth of bedrock was 28 feet and the material consisted of coarse sand and gravel compared to the normal fine sands we typically find in Hopedale. We are currently waiting for water quality results prior to moving forward. From the 2 ½ inch test well, a pumping rate of 24 gallons per minute (GPM) was recorded but the better news is that there was very little drawn down meaning the specific capacity could prove beneficial. If water quality and DEP support further investigation, we will probably install at a minimum a 72-inch diameter well with the hope of pumping in the area of 100 to 150 GPM. Additionally, being within two hundred feet of the existing wells, it would be considered a satellite well, not a new source and would enable the department to withdraw its permit volume, which is unattainable currently.

- Computer Upgrades

Currently the lab SCADA computer hard drive is full, and the computer needs to be replaced, which we are in the process of doing. This computer mirrors my SCADA computer which is the host. No other work than SCADA related work and DEP reporting is performed on this system for security reasons. I'm bringing this to your attention now as the system currently runs off Windows 8 and the current GE SCADA software supports it. However, soon neither Windows 8 nor

our GE software will be supported due to its age. This process is not simple and will require both our SCADA programmers and our IT company to work together in unison. Additionally, the department's Win-911, LogMeIn, RS Logix, XLReporter programs will also need updating and all the reporting formats recreated at this time. Each of these upgrades will come at a cost. We are currently quoting the project for the next FY and can expect quotes to be close to or over \$50,000. Please keep in mind these systems run and monitor the water treatment plant and all its components. If pricing comes in soon enough, we may want to consider these upgrades and their funding at the fall town meeting if the department's certified retained earnings for the prior FY are certified. This will ensure that the new equipment that will be installed with the PFAS upgrades is also current.

- **Greene Street Wells**

It is time once again to pull and clean the pump for Greene Street 1. The last pump, casting and well cleaning was performed in late April of this year. After cleaning this well was producing 85 GPM with a draw down to two feet above the screen. Currently it is producing 43 GPM and our drawdown is only to 7.7 feet above the screen indicating that the pump is clogged due to the high concentrations of iron. We are pleased it lasted as long as it did, I'm sure the wet summer and lower pumper rates required help prolong its productivity.

- **Water Booster Station**

As previously discussed with the iron issue with Greene Street well 1 (also present in wells 2 & 3), this high iron concentrated water is pumped into a raw water tank prior to the plant. This is a 35,000-gallon tank that receives all our sources prior to being pumped once again into our WTP. This water is obviously rich in iron which settles out in the tank creating a very fine sludge. When this sludge blanket gets deep enough the total iron concentration overloads our filters. To correct this issue, we hire divers to go into the tank and basically vacuum it out. This has typically been performed annually but the need has increased too bi-annually. This was also just performed this week.

- **UV**

Once again, this iron concentration has an additional effect on the treatment system. Our UV treatment is required to not go below 43 W/m². If so, the plant is programmed to shut down. Typical UV treatment is 75 to 90 W/m². We have recently seen treatment getting as low as 52, so both units were acid washed and all bulbs and sleeves were replaced.

- **Vac Truck**

We received the new Jet Vac truck. It has recently been insured, registered, and inspected. It has already been useful and put to work and was also put on standby to assist the Town of Milford in case of an emergency while their truck was out of service for repairs.

- **Generators**

All six generators within the water and sewer departments have been serviced since your last meeting. We have basic maintenance and checks performed in the spring and full maintenance and oil changes in the fall.

- **Asset Management Grant**

David and I met with Tigh & Bound in reference to grant opportunities. David will be working with them on an asset management grant funded through the DEP. This will be a grant of \$150,000 funded, with a match of \$50,000 cash and \$50,000 in-kind services. David will be running this project and will report back to myself as well as the Board. The goals of this grant include:

- Create defensible risk-based AMP and fiscal sustainability methodology to guide decision making and help prioritize infrastructure rehabilitation, replacement, and maintenance activities to meet level of service goals.
 - Inventory, assess condition and criticality of the major assets at the Hopedale Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and two sewer lift stations, Greene St. Water Filtration Plant, both well pump stations as well as both water storage tanks.
 - Update GIS with curb stop locations by purchasing GIS tablet plug in and having staff locate each one in field using in-kind services. Increase functionality of GIS to include a Record Drawings layer so operators can access these in the field from their tablets.
 - Update the Capital Plan, perform a rate analysis and develop a framework to reduce debt and reassess rates annually.
 - Determine criticality of major assets and update Emergency Response Plan to mitigate the risks.
 - Determine vulnerability of the water and sewer systems by identifying critical assets
 - Capture retiring operator knowledge by documenting standard operating procedures.
- Sludge Hauling

The regional sludge hauling issues we discussed at your July meeting have subsided. The two uncovered tanks typically not used have been emptied and cleaned due to receiving additional trucks after the incinerator repairs. Timing could not have been better as we were receiving order complaints. We may want to still consider covering these tanks and tying them into the biofilter system in case we are faced with the issue again. Capital cost is \$41,000.
- Pilot Testing

The testing of the IFAS in the aeration tanks was completed this summer. Currently Weston and Sampson is drafting a report of the findings to DEP and if approved, all the media in the tanks will be removed and maintenance will be significantly reduced on that portion of the process.
- Gate Vales WWTP

As you are aware, air relief valves and meters were installed on the raz pumps. These pumps and meters have recently been tied into their SCADA system which allows the operators, through the SCADA system, to ensure consistent pumping volumes from the secondary tanks. Also, all the valves after the pumps are being replaced. These are replacing the original ones installed in the 80's.
- Blowers / Effluent Flow Meter

Recently the operators have been experiencing blower failures in what we call blower #2. An internal oil leak has been discovered and needs to be sent out for repairs. There is a backup for this blower, however it is not compatible with the plants alarm system and is unable to call out during a shutdown which is critical. So, working with the SCADA technician, they set a low DO alarm for the aeration tanks that these blowers provide air to. So basically, if the blower fails and does not provide the needed air in the aeration tanks, the operator will be notified remotely. While on site they intergraded the effluent flow meter into the SCADA system to assist in flow monitoring and reporting.

- **Greene Street Lift Station**
The new pump for the sewer department's Greene Street lift station should arrive in the coming days. Once received it will be installed and the damaged one sent out for repairs and used as a backup. The funding for this project was encumbered from the prior FY.
- **75 Plain Street**
I have been monitoring the construction on a daily basis as it is located in our Zone 2 well protection areas. Construction is moving along quickly and professionally, and the demolition process and removal of the old water service lines are currently being scheduled for the very near future. The department has supplied the builders with a water meter and backflow device for dust control as well as domestic use for the duration of the project.
- **Sandra**
I just wanted to let you know that Sandra has been doing a fabulous job. Not only has she been completing the daily tasks that accompany her job, but she has also been excelling in so many other fronts. The Milford Country Clubs past due accounts are continuously reviewed and communicated with the association, her monthly auditing spreadsheet she created has proven helpful and time saving. FY 23 carryovers and encumberments have been handled by her, issues with electric bills and credits that have been ongoing since January are all monitored and resolved due to her constant review. All payables being processed by her, with updated excel spread sheets provided to the departments, makes for excellent accounting practices and budget tracking. She truly is an asset and the backbone to the departments. Thank-you Sandra, we don't say it enough.
- **Lastly, all monthly and quarterly compliance sampling, paperwork, and duties have been conducted throughout both departments.**