



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 January 9, 2014

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on January 9, 2014 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Morin, Chairperson Burke and Commissioner Burns.

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

Consent Items

Minutes of the December 12th meeting – Commissioner Burns made a motion to approve the minutes of December 12th and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Appointments

- A. Mr. Fitzpatrick – Solar Energy Discussion** – Mr. Fitzpatrick from Old Salt Work Partners came before the Board to discuss a solar farm at the Sewer Treatment Plant which would be between 2 to 3 acres of land mass in exchange for discounted electric. This agreement would be for 20 years so that Old Salt Work could amortize their equipment. We would pay \$.05/kwh with a 3.5% per year escalator. The Board was informed that in the first year we should see a \$55,000 savings with a \$2M savings over 20 years. There would be a separate meter for the solar panels.

Commissioners Burns asked if the 3.5% escalator was negotiable in which Mr. Fitzpatrick stated it was. Commissioner Burns asked if the panels were produced in the U.S. or China in which Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that more than likely China. Tim asked about transmission fees since that is a big part of our bill. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that there would be no transmission fees. Commissioner Burke asked if it would be a breach of contract if we decide we want to purchase from National Grid instead of through them in which Mr. Fitzpatrick stated it would be a breach of contract. Commissioner Burke stated she would like to see what we could do with putting up roof panels and installing canopies. Mr. Fitzpatrick stated this is definitely something we can look at.

New Business

- A. **Budgets FY15** – Tim informed the Board that Ken has been working on the Sewer Budget and he has been working on the Water Budget and they both are being very conservative. Tim stated that the \$100,000 we budget for Water Retained Earnings each year should be placed in the working budget under a capital reserve. Doing so give the department the ability to utilize the funds prior to retained earnings being citified. What doesnt get spent that fiscal year would be moved to retained earnings at the end of the Fy.
- B. **Rates** – Now that the sewer department has 4 billings at the new rate, Tim can see how the rates are supporting the budget and if a new rate increase will be needed no cover the Fy 15 budget.

Old Business

- A. **Mill Street Well Field** – The Board was informed that they have put off drilling until ground is frozen again, Tim is hoping the work will commence next week.


Correspondence – None

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours – Tim informed the Board that they had a water main break over on Freedom, down by Bancroft Park. He stated they are just flushing the system and cleaning up now.

Chairperson Morin made a motion at 7:58 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 Burke – yes, Commissioner Burns – yes, Chairperson Morin - yes.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of January 9, 2014.


Timothy Watson, Manager