



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

78 Hopedale Street - P.O. Box 7
Hopedale, Massachusetts 01747

Tel: 508-634-2203 ext. 212
Fax: 508-634-2200

Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners

James Morin, Chair
Robert Burns
Christine Burke

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of May 8, 2014

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met on May 8, 2014 in the Draper Room of the Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Morin, Commissioner Burke and Commissioner Burns.

Chairperson Morin opened the meeting at 7:00PM.

Consent Items

Minutes of the April 10th meeting – Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the minutes of April 10th seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Executive Session Minutes of March 13th meeting – Commissioner Burke made a motion to approve the executive session minutes of March 13th seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Appointments

- A. Town Administrator (public safety discussion)** – Town Coordinator, Steve Sette came before the Board to discuss a letter he received from the Police Union President regarding the use of police details. The Police Union feels the Town is becoming lax when using details, possibly putting the Town at risk. Mr. Sette stated that town details are still at the discretion of the Police Chief. Before any work is done, the department doing the work is to check with the Chief and see if a detail is needed. It was mentioned that a detail needs to be used if a road is blocked or poses a safety issue. Commissioner Burke asked Tim if there had ever been instances when we hadn't checked with the Chief first. Tim felt this had to do with an incident when work was being done and it started 15 minutes before the detail arrived.

New Business

- A. 117 Greene St.** – Hopedale Water Department did landscaping at Mr. and Mrs. Kaberry's property located at 117 Greene Street when the plant was first built. Unfortunately due to large trucks making deliveries, the landscaping that was originally done is now being damaged. The Kaberry's were asked to think about reconfiguring the entrance so these delivery trucks would not damage their property at our expense. This would be the department's best (cheapest) scenario as the property does belong to the Kaberry's and they have been very patient with the department. If the redesign is excessive, the board will be informed.
- B. Sewer Plant new employee** – the position was offered to Paul Wilson who has a Grade 4 license but very little experience as a wastewater operator. He will be starting at \$22.00/hr and after 6 months will increase to \$22.50. Mr. Wilson also has his CDL. Commissioner Burke asked for a copy of his resume.

Commissioner Burns made a motion to hire Paul Wilson as the new Wastewater Operator, seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

Wastewater Chief Operator position was posted in house and Tim's recommendation was to accept Ken Webb as Chief Operator at the same rate of pay as Vinny DeMeo. Ken Webb asked the Board to consider paying him more than Vinny was paid since the responsibilities have increased. Commissioner Burke asked if it could be discussed in executive session at the next meeting in which Ken stated yes.

Wastewater will also be looking to fill the position of Assistant Chief Operator. Any interest person has 5 days to apply. If no one applies the plant will be staffed with a chief operator and 2 laborers.

Old Business

- A. Weston and Sampson update** – Weston and Sampson drafted a letter, fulfilling the first written part to the EPA. They are still completing the O&M manuals.
- B. Solar System** – a representative will be attending next month's meeting to review some plans.

7:30 Open Public Hearing, Water and Sewer Rates for FY15

Commissioner Burns made a motion to open the public hearing regarding the setting of new water and sewer rates, seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

There were no taxpayers in attendance to be heard. The recommended increases for water rates are as follows:

	Currently	Proposed
0 – 500 cubic feet	\$2.95	\$2.99
501 – 2000 cubic feet	\$3.35	\$3.40
2001 – 4000 cubic feet	\$4.35	\$4.42
4001 cubic feet and up	\$6.45	\$6.55

Recommended increase for the sewer rate is as follows:

Current	\$4.97 per 100 cubic feet
Proposed	\$6.01 per 100 cubic feet

The Water Department debt for FY15 is \$419,082 which is divided by the number of water users (2,168) and equates to a quarterly water assessment of \$48.32 per user.

The Sewer Department debt for FY15 is \$224,300 which is divided by the number of sewer users (2,062) and equates to a quarterly sewer assessment of \$27.20 per user.

A motion by Commissioner Burns was made to accept the new rates effective July 1, 2014, seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Chairperson Morin.

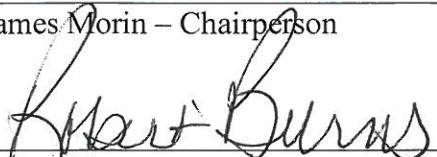
A motion by Commissioner Burke was made to close the public hearing at 7:35 P.M., seconded by Commissioner Burns and made unanimous by Commissioner Morin.

Other topics not reasonable anticipated by chairman within 48 hours – none

Commissioner Burns made a motion at 7:36 to adjourn and go into executive session to discuss pending litigation not to reconvene, seconded by Commissioner Burke and made unanimous by Commissioner Burke.

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes May 8th, 2014.

James Morin – Chairperson



Robert Burns



Christine Burke