



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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**Board of Water & Sewer
Commissioners**

Ed Burt, Chair
James Morin
Don Cooper

To: Hopedale Select Board

February 18, 2022

We are writing to convey the Hopedale Water and Sewer Commission's objection to GURR's continued land clearing proposal within the 364 West St property in the name of water supply well exploration.

The W&S Commission has NOT approved any resources (financial, equipment or personnel) to be utilized for such a project, nor have we received Town Meeting authorization to do so.

The following current projects should each be taken to conclusion to confirm the related impact on any new water supply aspects at the West St location:

- Complete the existing new water source exploration in the Green St area
- Complete the new Water Tank design, funding research, and hopefully construction
- Complete the PFAS removal research, funding options and associated plant upgrades.

Each project has an impact on the requirements and timing of any potential future wells at West St, making all of them a priority ahead of the West St exploration.

Additionally, because of the high cost to connect any West St source to the existing Hopedale Water system infrastructure, the potential of the West St location should be planned along with the Milford Water Company. This planning has not even begun yet, as the Town of Milford recently took over that independent water company. Nor has this potential location been vetted by the DEP, the ultimate authority over a new public water supply source.

Most importantly, the negative impact to the current water supply caused by any more land clearing within the West St watershed would only exacerbate today's water supply concerns and issues. This point cannot be emphasized enough.

The oversight of the water supply, watershed and water exploration is the Water & Sewer Commission's legal responsibility. Please represent our decisions and opinions as part of the West St court proceedings accordingly.

Sincerely,

Ed Burt Hopedale Water & Sewer Commission, Chair