



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

Ed Burt, Chr
James Morin
Adam Anderson

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of February 9, 2023

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met February 9, 2023, at 6:00 P.M. in the Draper Room of Town Hall. Members present were Chairperson Burt and Commissioner Morin.

Consent Items

Minutes of the December 8th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of December 8th, 2023 and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye.

Minutes of the January 12th meeting – Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 12th, 2023 meeting and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye.

New Business

A. Water Exploration - test drilling behind the Greene Street gravel packed wells was done. Tim will be having a meeting next week to see whether we should move forward. This is the most promising area for additional water. He will find out what we need for permits and will ask about ways to bring down the cleaning costs.

Old Business

B. New Water Storage Tank – out to bid in March with a bid opening in April. The engineers will be reviewing the site plans with the Planning Board. We have been contacted for additional information regarding the waivers, Dave Butler, Water Department, feels this is a good sign.

C. WWTP IFAS Media Removal and Pilot Test (approval) – there are a number of different testing criteria. DEP did approve the pilot study and the six month testing.

D. PFAS Upgrades and Grant Application - Dave Butler is looking into a \$4.5M federal grant. Chairperson Burt asked if we had anything further regarding the law suit. Tim stated he has not but is keeping track of all PFAS expenses.

E. Budgets/Rate Discussion – regarding the rates side we have about a \$100,000 deficit in the water department. Would like to build a balance in Retained Earnings to avoid having to borrow. A spreadsheet was shared showing the different increases based on % of increase. According to the spreadsheet, the majority of users used 1,200 cu.ft. per quarter which would increase their quarterly bill by \$12.23. We anticipate bills to be lower due to the new water bans. Between Mendon and Hopedale residents this increase would generate about \$168,000/year. Chairperson Morin stated a \$50 increase per year would work out to about \$4.25/month. Tim feels we shouldn't count on other revenue such as tie ins and firelines. Chairperson Burt wanted to see what % would bring us to the \$100,000 and feels it would have to be between an 18 and 25% increase.

Sewer is also looking at an approximate shortfall of \$100,000. In order to make this difference up, sewer will have to increase its rates by approximately 13%. Tim would like to increase rates with the April billing and have assessments come down with the July billing.

Chairperson Burt would like to make sure Commissioner Anderson is aware and prepared for the public hearing and the town meeting. Tim stated he will bring Commissioner Anderson up to speed before our next meeting.

Chairperson Burt asked if it was worth doing a minimum usage charge for sewer in which Tim responded that he does not see it worth doing. He stated he would like to consider a senior discount versus a minimum usage charge. The Board stated as of right now it looks like water will need to increase their rates by 25% and sewer by 13% in order to wipe out the deficits.

F. West Street Update - Chairperson Burt informed the Board about a new twist. Michael Milanoski, President of the Grafton and Upton Railroad is suing Jon Delli Priscoli, owner of the Grafton and Upton Railroad for basically the same thing we are suing them for, involvement of a third party.

Commissioner Morin asked if the town now gets the land would we be responsible for lead issues now that the land has been disturbed Chairperson Burt stated it's been noted for a long time this was a concern of ours and that we had asked that it not be disturbed.

G. Zone II Activities – still feel it is not being addressed as it should be and is going around in circles. The contaminated transfers will stop next week and shouldn't restart until fall of 2023. This was the small part of the transfers, will be much more when it starts up again and could go on for another 4 years. Chairperson Burt to send info to be posted to website.

H. Continued Budget Discussions with Finance Committee (7 P.M.) – no further discussion

Manager's Report – Tim informed the Board that his department fixed 3 leaks this week with help from the Highway and Sewer Departments.

Commissioner Morin asked if Tim had sent anything to Milford regarding the contracts. Tim stated he did and will follow up.

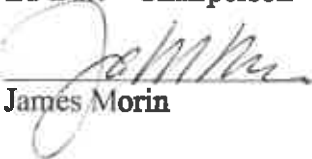
Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 P.M. and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Morin – Aye, Burt - Aye

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of February 9th, 2023



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin