



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 July 13, 2023

The Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners met July 13, 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 April 13th meeting– Commissioner Morin made a motion to approve the minutes of May 11th, 2023, and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

Correspondence

Reorganize the Board – Tim informed the Board that he spoke with Adam and that he is very happy to have Chairperson Burt remain Chair. Commissioner Morin made a motion to name Ed Burt as Chair and Chairperson Burt accepted.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

Siddharth & Sangeeta Chopra (seeking abatement) – Mr. Chopra who lives in Hopkinton but whose ill father lives in Laurelwood had a major leak and is seeking an abatement. Mr. Chopra explained that his insurance on the Laurelwood property was cancelled the week before. Chairperson Burt stated that unfortunately he isn't the first person to come before the board seeking an abatement. Commissioner Morin stated he understands but in the 21 years he has been on the board they have never allowed an abatement. Commissioner Morin mentioned a longer payment plan. Tim stated that Mr. Chopra should contact Sandra in the office to discuss.

Vacation carryover request (Tim Watson) – Tim is looking to carryover 40 vacation hours. Commissioner Morin made a motion to allow Tim to carryover 40 vacation hours seconded by Chairperson Burt.

All in favor, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

New Business

A. Greene Street wastewater lift station (pump replacement) – Smith and Loveless is the only company that carries the needed pump and is currently on order. Tim stated once the new pump is installed, he would recommend getting the old one fixed to have as a spare.

B. Sludge disposal issues – looking at a new contract with Synagro. The incinerator is having issues, breakdown with Synagro. Nothing has been picked up. We have had to store excess sludge in uncovered tanks causing an odor issue. We are currently looking for covers for these 2 uncovered tanks. In the meantime, we have to wait to see if they will accept our sludge and if we will have to get our own trucking there. Tim stated that we are at a critical stage. Chairperson Burt asked if DEP and EPA were aware since we cannot be the only towns effected. Chairperson Burt asked if we should contact EPA and Tim stated we should wait a week to see if we can get trucking. Tim also stated he will reach out to Milford Sewer since they use Synagro as well.

C. Wastewater plant tank cover – discussed above.

D. Wastewater raz pumps – secondary pumps started getting air. They attached meters to see what is being pumped and found some of the check valves and pumps in the cellar are leaking. Tim told Mike to start testing and repairing them. Commissioner Morin asked if anything is really wrong with the pumps in which Tim responded no.

E. South Cemetery water connection request - a request was made to get water at the cemetery. Tim stated he hasn't personally spoken with Bernie Stock yet but wanted to ask the Board if this was a billable service. A tie in fee which is a few thousand dollars or just time and material. Chairperson Burt feels they should sit with Mr. Stock and discuss, Commissioner Morin is willing to waive the tie-in fee but stated that we do have indirect costs. Commissioner Morin stated if we are charged since we are an enterprise fund then it should work both ways and they should be charged.

Old Business

F. Water tank and water main update – contracts were just sent out today. Unfortunately, we did not get the steel waiver, but it did not affect the cost. We are on track and ready to go. We have a meeting regarding the tank on Monday. The water main installer has 120 days from yesterday and tank has 365 days from 6/16/23. Dave Butler stated he just had a meeting with EPA regarding budgets. EPA informed Dave that the project was on the books and he is good to move forward. Dave stated they will still need all invoices and we will be reimbursed at 80%. They will be meeting on Monday at 9 A.M. and after that meeting, we will have the information to share with the residents. Tim stated he and Chairperson Burt could go door to door on Monday to discuss with residents.

G. PFAS design update – the design is now 80% complete. Tim stated we would have to move the building or drain. They will be moving the drain so will be getting a structural engineer in. When the project is closer to 90-100% complete there will be another meeting. Chairperson Burt asked if they were any closer regarding the PFAS source, Tim stated no.

H. Milford Contract – Tim asked the Board to sign the Milford contract regarding the ability to purchase water during emergencies, once signed Tim will have town counsel review. Two copies were signed.

I. PFAS litigation – discussed above.

J. West Street update – there is a new court document that will be placed online. The railroad owner and manager are pointing fingers at each other regarding the removal of trees. Chairperson Burt stated we will update the West Street log with the 4 court documents.

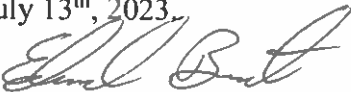
K. Zone II activities – 75 Plain Street has started clearing, putting up fencing and some minor grading. They will be meeting with conservation. It has been a clean-up process with drums, vehicles, cement and scrap metal being removed.

Manager's Report – nothing additional

Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 6:47 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 July 13th, 2023.



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin