



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners

Ed Burt, Chr
James Morin
Adam Anderson

Hopedale Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners Minutes of September 14, 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, Commissioner Morin and Commissioner Anderson.

Consent Items

Minutes of the July 13th meeting— Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of July 13th, 2023, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

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

Correspondence - None

New Business

A. Asset Management Grant – Tighe and Bond will be working on a fifteen-year rate structure analysis, aiming to become more proactive versus reactive. This will include condition assessments of both water and sewer infrastructure, updating capital plans, determining criticality of major assets, updating Emergency Response Plans, which will tie into the rate analysis. Looking at a grant that will be \$150,000 worth of engineering costs, \$50,000 matching funds between water and sewer and \$50,000 for in-kind services. As part of the in-kind services, we will be updating the GIS system for the in-town water services. The departments will go out and find all tie-ins for all properties in town and track them with the GIS software. We will then be supplied with three tablets to be used when at the site it will show us where to find tie-in sites, no more tie-in cards. This grant would be awarded in late 2024. The board agreed to move ahead with the grant.

B. Sewer Department Repairs and Updates – Tim explained that there was a lot of equipment in both departments breaking down. A few of the items in the sewer department are blowers, influent pumps and work to be done at the Greene Street lift station. Items in the water department include chemicals needed and Greene Street well cleaning. Unfortunately, we are dealing with ancient equipment and do not have money in the budget to replace so can only repair. Tim mentioned that John and Adam from the water department did a great job repairing the chemical line. Chairperson Burt stated that we do need to balance whether it should be repaired or just spend the money and replace.

C. Water Department Repairs and Updates – mentioned above

D. Greene Street well exploration – five observation sites were drilled, one with great material potential. Currently filing with DEP to do a pump test. This process may take a little while since it is within 250' of another well so may be considered a satellite well. Chairperson Burt asked if this site has shown more promise than any other recently and Tim stated that the material has. Tim would highly recommend moving forward with this in which the Board agreed.

E. Computer Upgrades – the lab computer which is tied into Tim's SCADA system computer was full and needed to be replaced. The computer with the SCADA system can not be used with any other software and has to be on its own computer system. Tim is estimating this new system will have a cost of approximately \$60K. Commissioner Anderson asked how much information we have to keep and if it is backed up anywhere. He was informed that it is backed up. Commissioner Anderson also asked about the cloud and Dave Butler informed him that they do not allow it to go through the cloud. The last computer lasted approximately 12 years.

Old Business

F. Greene Street Wastewater lift station (pump replacement) – previously discussed.

G. Sludge disposal issues – the issues seem to have been resolved. Tim would still like to cover both tanks in case it happens again but feels it should be put on hold for now.

H. Wastewater raz pumps – tied in the flow meter into the SCADA system.

I. Water tank and water main project update – the trench to the tank is bigger than expected. Currently working on a change order. May see cracks in the road so will work on paving with the highway department. A change order for fill was wanted by the contractors but our engineers denied it. Pressure testing was done and all was fine. Paving should start next week. Commissioner Morin asked if it will be all set for plows this winter and Tim stated it would be. Water tank submittals are going well. Came across an issue today with the stakes, it goes within 25' of the house and 2 to 5 feet from shed. The resident is obviously not happy. Tim spoke with Mitch, the Town Administrator and has a meeting about looking at the land to talk about swapping land or purchasing and selling pieces of land with the involved resident. This would benefit all involved parties.

J. PFAS design update – is complete and has been submitted to DEP for approval.

K. WTP solar – a diagram was displayed on the screen showing different options regarding the solar panels. Chairperson Burt asked if there was another option other than putting them on the roof in which Tim responded that he had too many underground electrical wires in that area. The information was given to the engineers for review then it would have to go out for bid. Chairperson Burt discussed the possibility of going with options A & B from the diagram then maybe the Town would be willing to contribute some of the cost.

L. Milford Contract – it was sent to Attorney Doneski about a month ago and Tim had not heard back yet so it was recently resent.

M. PFAS Litigation – they are offering a settlement based on volume of water. For us this would amount to approximately \$180,000. Tim explained to the attorney all additional costs are approximately \$8M and feels the \$180,000 is not worth the paperwork. Once he gets the information back from the attorney, he will get it to the Board. If we opt out, we will move on with the legal case.

N. West Street Update – all legal status on all cases were read at the Select Board meeting. Commissioner Burt has additional information to be included on the website.

O. Zone II Activities (75 Plain St) – going well from our end. A service line on one of the buildings has been removed. Tim stated they have been easy to work with thus far. There is no pipe in the ground yet.

Manager's Report – Tim informed the Board that a new employee was hired and will be going straight to classes. He also informed them that the new employee is a heavy equipment operator.

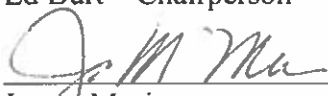
Commissioner Morin made a motion to adjourn at 7:12 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Anderson – Aye, Morin – Aye, Burt - Aye

I attest to the best of my knowledge that this is a true and accurate recording of the minutes of September 14th, 2023.



Ed Burt – Chairperson



James Morin

Adam Anderson