



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 November 9, 2023

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

Consent Items

Minutes of the October 5th meeting— Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes of October 5th, 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. 6 Dennett Street, water service refund request – Ryan Schiloski, owner of 6 Dennett, came before the board via Zoom to discuss possible reimbursement for replacing his water line. Mr. Schiloski was made aware that we were replacing water lines and is looking for reimbursement or partial reimbursement since he paid to have his changed a few years ago. The Town is not required to change the line from curb to main but unfortunately if homeowner does not do their end, then we are not in compliance. We cannot reconnect to lead. We have done 7 or 8 so far this year at our expense. Tim explained to the board that he feels we need to set some policies and how we will move forward. Commissioner Burt feels the general policy is to complete the entire job at our cost. Tim stated we are currently working on one side of Dutcher Street and would like to work in one area at a time. Commissioner Morin wanted residents to be aware that we are only doing lead and iron lines, with a lead gooseneck. Tim wanted the Board to be careful when setting policies and feels we shouldn't go back in time. Mr. Schiloski stated if he knew this was going to take effect 2 years later, he would have waited. Chairperson Burt asked if he had the detail of the work done in which Mr. Schiloski responded that he did. He feels he is due some sort of reimbursement. Chairperson Burt stated we can look into with the State but also mentioned that he feels we shouldn't go back in time as where Mr. Schiloski stated he feels we should go back a number of years. Tim and Chairperson Burt also discussed the huge difference in cost between the water department doing the work and a general contractor.

B. Flushing – hydrant flushing is complete for now. A lot of water was utilized and it was getting cold so decided to wait to finish. Once we have a warm night and a full tank it will be completed.

C. Well Cleaning – Tim informed the Board that the well needs to be cleaned once again.

D. Budgets/Retained Earnings – Tim stated that he would like to get an early start with the budgets. Looking to cut our budgets by 5% but have some large projects in the works. There will be a health insurance increase of 12%. We received the uncertified retained earning numbers and are as follows: water \$350,000 and sewer \$490,000. Some expenses we have no control of are sludge, chemicals and electricity. Chairperson Burt stated that he is hoping to keep our rate increases to a minimum. Chairperson Burt stated he would like to work on cross charges as early as possible as well.

E. Scada Upgrades – Tim asked to skip over since meeting was postponed.

F. Request for Tuition Reimbursement – Tim is asking the Board for tuition reimbursement for David Butler to complete his business administrative degree. The breakdown would be as follows: FY24 - \$3,960, FY25 - \$5,940 and FY26 - \$3,960. This is part of the union contract. Commissioner Anderson made a motion to approve tuition reimbursement for David Butler, seconded by Commissioner Morin and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Anderson – Aye, Morin – Aye, Burt – Aye

Old Business

A. Moore Road water main change order – there has been no additional movement

B. Water tank status – have been trying to keep updates on website. Not much will happen during winter months.

C. IFAS Removal – nothing additional

Manager's Report – nothing additional

Chairperson Burt made a motion to adjourn the public meeting and enter into executive session not to reconvene at 6:32 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Anderson and made unanimous by Commissioner Morin.

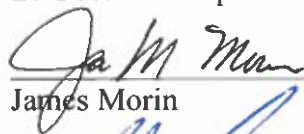
Chairperson Burt opened the executive session at 6:32 P.M. seconded by Commissioner Anderson, Commissioner Morin, Select Board Stock, Select Board Chair Hazard and made unanimous by Chairperson Burt.

Anderson – Aye, Morin – Aye, Stock – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Burt - Aye

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Burt", written above a horizontal line.

Ed Burt – Chairperson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Morin", written above a horizontal line.

James Morin

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam Anderson", written above a horizontal line.

Adam Anderson