

Allan Kent  
Chairman



Dean D'Alessandro  
Kevin Rudden

## TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION

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DEP Public Water Supply (PWS) ID #217900

[mendonma.gov/water](http://mendonma.gov/water)

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**Meeting Date:** 4/28/2017

**Meeting Location:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Meeting Room,  
Mendon Town Hall  
20 Main St, Mendon, MA

**Minutes Approved:** 6/7/17

**Members Present:** Allan Kent, Dean D'Alessandro, *Kevin Rudden*

**Water Clerk:** Dan Byer

**Others:**

*The meeting was called to order at 2pm.*

The commission discussed the upcoming meeting with Bellingham. Dean says we should lay out the facts. Dan thinks Hopedale owns the meters at the entry points.

The commission discussed the leak detection, all are in favor.

Dan reviewed an email from Tim asking if the board wants to flush hydrants. Tim estimates each hydrant will use 350 gpm for 15-20 minutes to flush. Alan says there are 40-50 hydrants. The cost will be around \$3,000 total. Dan says there is \$44,000 left for purchase of water and the final Hopedale bill will be around \$30,000 leaving approximately \$14,000. The commission agrees we should ask Tim to flush all the hydrants.

Tim also mentioned he has ordered replacement bolts for the hydrant at the intersection of 140 and Hartford Ave E.

The commission discussed the meter replacements. Dan says we are 50% complete. All agree the replacements should be done by June 30<sup>th</sup> if possible. Kevin says his meter was replaced this week. Allan says we should see a decrease in loss, as the new meters are more accurate.

The commission discussed the certified water operator position. Tim has requested a raise from \$350 a month to \$500 a month. Kevin is working to get information from Rich on how the position was created. Dean asked how Tim was hired. The commission is not sure. Kevin says the position is not in the payroll study and there is no job description. Dean says he would not be interested in the position, as it would be a conflict of interest. Dean also suggested looking at New England Water Works Association as they have a list of certified operators. The commission discussed the possibilities of outsourcing the

position or combining it with the existing clerk position. Kevin feels Tim's request is too much. Dean is concerned there are insurance issues with Tim subbing out the meter readings. Dean is also concerned about tracking our inventory of parts since the position is currently shared with Hopedale. Kevin will get Rich to come to a water meeting to discuss. Dean thinks Tim was a contractor and has now been converted to an employee. Dan explained that Tim got \$9,200 a year for just the water system under the old contract and when Tim took over for the town owned PWS' the town changed to paying him \$350 a month. The commission is also concerned there is no employee review for Tim. Dan explained Parks reviews his position and Kevin explained how Amy is reviewed by Kim. Alan asked about Tim's money in the budget. Dan explained it is broken into two accounts, one for the water system, and another for the town owned PWS'. All agree we need to get more info on how the position was set up.

The commission discussed joining the water trade organizations. Dean says he is a member of the New England Water Works Association for the Housing Authority and they are very helpful. Dan looked up pricing and the cost is \$145 for NE Water and \$175 for Mass Rural.

**Kevin made a motion to approve membership for both the New England Water Works and Mass Rural Water Works Associations, Dean seconded, and all approved.**

The commission discussed water shut-offs. Dan updated the commission on the process and asked for clarification on the steps. Dan also noted that 3 Joseph and 26 Cape as discussed at the last meeting have since paid. He will send a certified letter. Tim will post the property with 48 hrs notice and then turn off. Dan is not planning to send certified letters to 47 Cape and 145 HAE as they are known to be foreclosed and unoccupied. The commission agrees.

Kevin explained that Braza found an unknown 2<sup>nd</sup> water line at the 16 Cape property.

The commission discussed the upcoming meeting with Bellingham. Kevin suggests we consider the option of selling the Dudley Rd. system to Hopedale if they are interested.

The commission discussed the next meeting dates. They will meet Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> at 10am with Rich and then at 11am with Bellingham.

**Dean made a motion to approve the minutes of 4/20/17. Allan stepped down and seconded and Dean and Allan approved. Kevin abstained since he was not at that meeting.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 3pm.*