



TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION

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DEP Public Water Supply (PWS) ID #217900

mendonma.gov/water

Meeting Date: 8/1/2017

Meeting Location: Water Commission Office, Town Hall, 20 Main St. Mendon

Minutes Approved: 10/6/2017

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

Water Clerk: Dan Byer

Others: Jason Braga (New England Football Club), Louie King (Resident)

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Dan said the minutes from the previous meetings are not yet complete, he will have them for the next meeting.

Dan discussed an issue with registering with Dig Safe with the commission. In order to participate we will need someone available to mark out water lines when called. Kevin says he knows some guys in Milford and will ask them for a quote. Kevin also stated he will work to get a quote for the meter replacements as well. The commission will discuss at a future meeting when they have more information.

The commission reviewed the leak detection survey. No leaks were found. Alan asked about Dudley Rd. Dan says he thinks Tim said Hopedale does that one. The commission signed the voucher to pay for the leak detection survey.

The commission met with Jason Braga to discuss a new water hookup for the NEFC Turf Fields at 33 Cape Rd. Jason explained they are looking for water onsite for drinking and eventually for bathroom and concession facilities. The commission reviewed the contract and believe there are 3 available connections. One has been committed for 16 Cape and there are 2 remaining. Kevin stated he would like to see more commercial taxes in Mendon and see available connections be used to support commercial development rather than a tax-exempt facility. Jason said he understands the concerns but the Turf Fields do provide recreational benefits for the town. Alan suggests they consider a storage tank rather than an active connection. Dean says we can't discriminate against users, the responsibility of the commission is to source water and provide it to the customers. He thinks Kevin's thoughts make financial

sense but thinks that is not our duty to pick and choose who should get water. Kevin agrees. Jason says they work with Nipmuc and BVT for use and only charge them for the lights.

Kevin made a motion to approve the connection, Dean seconds, and all approve.

The commission discussed how the connection would work. All agree the next step is engineered plans for the new service line. Kevin suggests Jason contact R.H. White for advice. They will need to cross RT 140 to access the water main. Alan says there are new technologies that will allow them to tap into the main without even turning off the water. They discussed the need for a location for the water meter. Jason will work to have plans drawn up for the commission's review.

The commission discussed the search for water. Kevin explained that Bellingham has turned us down. He spoke with their Administrator and the Selectmen feel the residents of Bellingham will not support the sale of water to Mendon. The commission discussed other options. Alan says he thinks there were some discussions with Uxbridge years ago but they wanted mandatory hookups. Kevin said he had a discussion with the DPW assistant head in Northbridge and they might be interested. They are going to have some internal discussions and get back to us. Kevin also talked to someone in Milford about the possibility of a partnership with White Water to develop our own water source. The commission discussed possible locations and agree it would probably have to be near the Cape Rd system to make sense.

The commission met with the resident of 7 Dudley, Louie King to discuss upgrading the size of his meter. Louie explained that his house has 1.25" pipes and because the meter is only 5/8" his water flow is limited. When running multiple appliances he loses water pressure. Kevin says he used to live in that area and the water pressure was so low Hopedale had to install a pump about 10 years ago. Louie has talked to a plumber and he recommends a 1" meter. Dan checked with Stiles and the cost will be around \$300. Dan explained we would be paying \$165 to replace the meter register under the replacement program. The commission agree if Louie is willing to pay the difference for the larger meter they are fine with the upgrade.

The commission discussed a request for abatement from 7 Talbot Farm Dr. The resident emailed claiming they paid their bill on time. The evidence they submitted as well as the Treasurer/Collectors office both showed the bill was paid late. The commission agreed to deny the abatement and welcome the resident to attend a future meeting if they wish to discuss the issue further.

The commission discussed an issue at 15 Bates. The resident complained of an unusually high water bill. The commission agree we should replace the meter as well as inspect it for accuracy as soon as we are able to restart the replacement project.

The commission discussed an email sent by the resident of 3 Joseph Rd. They are claiming they did not receive their bill and are now being assessed a late fee. Dan explained the backstory on the account. Due to a billing error the January bill was sent to the previous owner. The commission discussed in Jan of 2017 to re-issue the bill and extend the due date. They sent a letter in January followed by a certified letter in March, all with no response. The customer

finally paid their 2nd and 3rd quarter bills in April which incurred additional late fees. Dan explained he spoke with the resident and invited them to attend a meeting to discuss in person with the commission. All agree they will not issue an abatement at this time and welcome the resident to attend a future meeting to discuss further.

Kevin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dean, all were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9pm.