

Allan Kent
Chairman



Vincent Roy
Kevin Rudden

TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION

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DEP Public Water Supply (PWS) ID #217900

mendonma.gov/water

Meeting Date: 9/2/2021

Meeting Location: Mendon Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room

Minutes Approved: 10/7/2021

Members Present: Allan Kent, Vincent Roy, Kevin Rudden,

Water Clerk: Dan Byer

Others:

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 7pm with Allan Kent, Vincent Roy, and Kevin Rudden in attendance.

The commissioners signed the August White Water bill. Dan pointed out the yearly fee increase.

Dan updated the commissioners on the issues at the new Taft Library. (PWS 2179031) The monthly sample tested positive for fecal coliforms. They have had to do several re-tests and are chlorinating the well. An inspection revealed a sink hole around the well head. Dan shared pictures and it appears the new well was sunk through an old concrete vault, possibly the old hand dug well? Ken Dunnham, the water operator believed rain water was getting down along the wellhead and causing the issues. Dan had since filled it in and pitched the soil so any surface water will flow away from the well head. They will be required to complete a level 1 assessment and there will be some costs involved. It appears to be all set now with the most recent samples coming back clean.

The commission discussed the rate increase. Dan shared some sample rates. The increase from Hopedale is 10%. It doesn't seem to make sense to set up multiple tiers for Mendon because of the small size of our system. The commission discussed just adding 10% to our rates. The commissioners also discussed the fire connection fees and agreed to add 10% to those as well. Right now 100% of that fee goes to Hopedale.

Kevin made a motion to proposed the following rate increases

0-50 cubic feet minimum \$30 to \$35

50+ cubic feet increase of 10% (\$9.20 per 100 to \$10.12 per 100)

Fire fees 4" \$100 to \$110 and 6" \$150 to \$165

Vin seconded, and all approved.

All agree this is the simplest approach for the users. Dan would like to also update the regulations and will send out an update.

Vin asked about an abatement policy. Kevin discussed the past practices. Vin said in Sudbury they have a set policy that requires proof of repair and states they only get 1 chance. Dan said most of our abatements are fees due to billing issues. He will research further.

The commission discussed the water study. Kevin said he would post a meeting for 9/16. They discussed who to invite. Dan mentioned the new town planner. Kevin would like to let people know about the \$50K from the state plus the local and state ARRP funds. We need to spend the state grant money by CY 2022. The commission discussed a big study to look at the options open to us. Vin said he thinks that could be \$150K. Vin asked about replacing the asbestos cement pipes. That would have an immediate benefit. Vin offered to reach out to Bellingham again. He knows Don DiMartino and can find out if they are open to discussions with Mendon. They also discussed drilling a new well.

There are no updates on billing. Dan will book the main meeting space for the hearing on 10/7. It will be a hybrid meeting allowing both remote and in person participation.

Vin made a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm. Kevin seconded and all approved.