

Allan Kent  
Chairman



Kevin Rudden  
Matthew O'Brien

## TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION

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DEP Public Water Supply (PWS) ID #217900

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**Meeting Date: 10/4/2019**

**Meeting Location:** Water Department Office (Basement), Town Hall, 20 Main St. Mendon

**Minutes Approved:** 1/2/2020

**Members Present:** Allan Kent, Kevin Rudden

**Water Clerk:** Dan Byer

**Others:**

**Absent:** Matthew O'Brien

*The meeting was called to order at 12:01pm.*

**Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes of the 4/4, 5/30, and 8/8 meetings, Allan seconded and all approved.**

The commissioners signed the bill from White Water for testing and the bill from Hopedale for water.

The commission discussed 4 Joseph Rd. Allan suggested we sent a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals to remind them there is no water available at this property as it was never on the contract and never had a service connection.

The commission discussed the meter replacements. Dan has been able to schedule a few more. We have been unable to locate someone to complete the project. Dan suggested reaching out to Bellingham to see if they would be willing to do some side work for us.

Kevin explained he was at an assessor's conference and learned we need to include specific language on our abatement paperwork stating the customer has the right to appeal the commission's decision to the court. Failure to include this notice could cause us to default on an appeal. He will send Dan the language.

The commissioners discussed a late bill from White Water. Due to the end of the FY19 fiscal year this will need to go to town meeting to be paid. Dan explained it is a year late for work that took place in July of 2018. Amy forwarded a bill for \$95 from White Water that was related to the Senior Center expansion project. However it may have also been related to the site visit and classification of the Taft Library as a public water supply which happened on the same

day. Kevin said he was there and the bill should have been for the Senior Center. They have a special account and can pay the balance.

The commissioners discussed a proposal from Hopedale for an amendment to the contract regarding fire lines. Tim Watson spoke to Dan and said Hopedale is willing to allow new fire line connections but they would like to begin charging a quarterly fee. Tim explained that in his view, if there is a fire, the fire department will use the water from the hydrants anyways so there's really not much difference to allowing a fire sprinkler connection. However in Hopedale customers are charged a quarterly fee (\$100 for 2"-6" and \$150 for 6" and up) for these connections. This would allow the proposed fire line for 16 Cape and future DC Bates property. The commissioners agree and discussed passing this fee on to the customers. Kevin explained they are saving money on their insurance by having sprinklers as well as the costs associated with pumps and storage tanks. The commission discussed setting a hearing for the 12/5 meeting to discuss these fees. Dan will include a notice to the 2 current affected customers as well as the 2 potential new ones in the next billing cycle.

The commission discussed the future of the water system and proposed joint meeting. They agreed on a date of 11/21. Kevin will send out a notice to the boards. Allan discussed the long range plan. All agree we should revisit this plan and look to update it.

Dan updated the commission on the Town Hall Campus well. The pump is failing and will need to be replaced. The Selectmen's office is supposed to be handling the repair. Dan said they are waiting to schedule the work. Due to the location of the well it will be very difficult.

Dan reviewed the results of the leak detection survey. There were no leaks detected. The commission also discussed the digital meters. Dan explained that a replacement of all the meters would allow us to do more frequent reviews of use data to better understand any loss issues.

The commission discussed the master meters. Dan explained Tim Watson also told him DEP did Hopedale's sanitary survey and noted the master meters are due for replacement. They were installed in 2005 for Cape Rd and 2002 for Dudley Rd. He stated they have 3 years to plan this and are willing to work with Mendon on the timing however Mendon will need to bear the cost of these replacements. All agree we need remote read meters to give Mendon access to our own data. The commission discussed funding methods and requesting the town cover some portion of the cost as these meters are more expensive as they need to be rated for fire flows to serve the hydrants.

Dan updated the commission on the timing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter bills. He is going to read the meters next week and bills should go out by mid-October. They will be due in November.

The commission discussed the estimated vs actual receipts. Dan checked the records and the number we used when setting up the enterprise fund was \$153,500. All agree we should stick with that number for FY20 and review after the first year of the new rates and fund.

**Kevin made a motion to adjourn, Allan seconded and all approved.**

*The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm.*