

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: 11/21/2019**

**Meeting Location:** Old Taft Library, 18 Main St. Mendon

**Minutes Approved:** 2/6/2020

**Members Present:** Allan Kent, Kevin Rudden, Matthew O'Brien

**Water Clerk:** Dan Byer

**Others:**

**Absent:**

*The meeting was called to order at 6:36pm.*

There are no minutes to approve. The commissioners signed the WW bills and the final memo to the Assessor's office regarding the FY19 water Liens.

The commission discussed the voucher process. Dan suggested we authorize 1 member to sign the vouchers to speed up the process. We have paid a few White Water bills late. Kevin explained the new municipal modernization law allows a board to authorize one member to sign bills and then review bills signed at the next meeting.

**Matt made a motion to authorize Kevin Rudden to sign vouchers up to \$2,000 on behalf of the board, Kevin seconded and all approved.**

The commission discussed the 16 Cape Rd fire line. Dan explained the permit from the state came through today. He also spoke with Paul Braza and they are going to meet Friday AM at 10am to review the site. Paul wants us to mark the water main but we don't know where it is. Dan will share the maps with Paul and give him all the info we have. The commission discussed and all would like to observe the work to see the condition of the mains.

The commission discussed the master meters. There are no updates from Tim yet but we will have to begin planning for this in the budget process.

The commissioners discussed reviewing the long range plan and upcoming Capital Expense Committee meeting. Matt O'Brien explained the Cap Ex committee is working to build a list of all the outstanding capital projects in town. The commission discussed and agree the master meters, future water main repairs, and overall future expansion of the system are all issues to be brought forward. Dan said the meeting is 11/26 at 7:15pm/

Dan updated the commission on the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter bills. He said late notices will be going out on Monday.

The commission discussed the curb stop at 145 Hartford Ave East. Dan explained the new owners have requested the water be shut of in preparation for demolition. Unfortunately the curb stop is stuck and will not turn on. Dan worked with Ken from White Water to locate and open it but they have been unable to move it. He spoke with HydraTech and they gave 2 options. First they can try freeing the valve with heat for a cost of \$1,500, second they can replace the valve for \$5,000. All agree we cannot afford that cost. It is not clear who is responsible for the costs. Dan will reach out to the owners to see how they would like to proceed. Perhaps they can help with the excavation as they will be demolishing the property.

Dan updated the commissioners on the status of the Town Hall well pump. It has not been replaced yet. He will reach out to the Selectman's office for an update. He also explained the recent test results for Manganese have been on the high side. We will need to monitor this as the DEP could require treatment if the levels exceed the limits. The cost for a treatment system would be very expensive.

The commission discussed the proposed affordable housing at 52 Providence Rd. Bill McHenry has been working on a grant to do the engineering for a PWS well that would be used to supply the proposed housing as well as possibly the Senior Center expansion. This project is in the very early stages so there is not much info to share. The area they are looking at is near the area that was tested in the 40's.

Dan also explained the engineering firm working on the project also worked with Mendon in the 2003 to develop a water resources study. Bill sent Dan the document and he will forward it to the Water Commissioners (*study is on file in Water Dept. office*).

*Lawney Tinio (Selectmen) and Tom Merolli (Economic Development Committee Chair) joined the meeting at this point.*

Kevin started the discussion on the future expansion of the water system. He said he is willing to do the work but it has to be a town wide effort backed by multiple boards if we are serious about moving this forwards. The group discussed the history of the system and current status. The Commissioners reviewed the steps they've taken to date and possible sources for water from outside Mendon. Milford doesn't have excess capacity, Bellingham turned us down in 2018, Blackstone has a hydrant at the end of Colonial Dr but we are not sure of their capacity, Upton has water mains to St. Gabriel's and may have excess capacity, Northbridge has a private source, Rockdale Mills but they have not responded to our inquiries. Kevin reviewed the rough estimate we got from White Water on the costs for water mains (\$350/ft with no ledge.) Dan shared a study that was obtained through Bill McHenry identifying possible locations in town for our own well. Tom discussed capital needs and Rt 16, we need water to encourage businesses to come. . Chief Kessler called on the phone as he was driving back to the meeting and offered some info on the need for fire protection. He is concerned about the center of Mendon with all the old buildings in particular. *Chief Kessler arrived at the meeting in person.*

The group discussed possible areas to expand water. All agree the priorities are the Rt 16/North Ave area with a stub to feed the Town Hall complex. Secondary would be a connection back to the Cape Rd. system.

The group discussed financing. Matt stated his concern is the cost to residents. Possible estimates might be around \$30 million. Dan explained town water was voted down in 1949 and again a few years later. All agree it is good for business but may be a hard sell for residents. The group discussed the next steps. Lawney will reach out to Upton's Town Manager to get more info from them. Tom will reach out to his contacts in Economic Development to see what assistance or grants may be available.