

Allan Kent
Chairman



Kevin Rudden
Matthew O'Brien

TOWN OF MENDON WATER COMMISSION

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DEP Public Water Supply (PWS) ID #217900

mendonma.gov/water

Meeting Date: 11/5/2020

Meeting Location: Remote Meeting via Zoom

Minutes Approved: 1/7/2021

Members Present: Allan Kent, Kevin Rudden,

Water Clerk: Dan Byer

Others: Jayne Lavoie

Absent: Matthew O'Brien

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm via conference call per the 3/12/20 state COVID-19 Open Meeting Law Amendments.

There were no previous minutes to approve.

Kevin introduced Jayne Lavoie and said she was interested in observing a Water Commission meeting.

The commission discussed the current bills.

Kevin made a motion to approve the vouchers for Amazon (envelopes), Postage, White Water Oct billing, and Dig Safe quarterly billing. Allan seconded and all approved.
Copies of all vouchers kept digitally in Water Dept records and Town Accountant files.

The commission discussed the joint meeting with the Hopedale Water Commission on Oct 22nd. Kevin and Dan were in attendance. They discussed the letter we sent earlier in the year (**Exhibit A**) Hopedale is not in favor of any changes to the contract at this time. Kevin tried to sell them on the proposal to allow new commercial use if it would be less than the existing residential use. Ed Burt, the chair of the Hopedale commission explained they do not have enough water for their own system and have been turning down new connections in Hopedale as well. They aren't able to give us water when they can't supply their own customers first.

Dan asked for clarification on any new fire connections, would we charge both capital fees and the minimum water meter fee. All agree we should treat them the same as any customer. Dan asked about 143 HAE if they drill a well. Kevin says they could build 2 homes and keep the connections so they add value to the property as long as they are available. They have the option to combine the lots and delete 1 connection permanently if they choose.

Kevin explained the history of our contract(s) to Jayne.

The commission discussed the commercial zones. They agree we should send a letter to all properties in this zone making them aware of the limitations of our contracts. Dan said it would cost around \$250 to send them certified. All feel it is probably worth it. Alan said we want to be able to prove we informed them all. Dan will work on a draft.

The commission discussed connections to other towns. Bellingham seems to be the best option right now. Allan asked about our own wells, Kevin thinks it would be too expensive.

Dan updated the commission on the COVID-19 Pandemic as it relates to the Water Dept. The only issue is the replacement of the water meters. He has been able to change a few during property transfers.

Dan updated the commission on the Town Hall well. The Select Board approved signing with McLure Engineering to engineer and install a new well. Kevin explained how the Water Dept manages the 4 town owned public water supplies.

Kevin said there are no updates on the water study committee. COVID has delayed things and there will not be any earmarks in the budget for studies. The commission discussed talking to Bellingham and what might be involved.

The commission discussed the replacement of the master meters. We are still waiting to hear back from White Water on their proposal. They also discussed the Plains Rd option. It appears this would help improve issues with water pressure in the system. DEP has also recommended a backup connection. Dan said a connection to a new town would let us use Hopedale as a backup. The commission discussed digital meters and better leak detection.

Kevin gave Dan the contact info for a plumber he got from Braza who may be able to help with the curb stop issues.

Dan updated the commission on the leak detection survey. Everything was all set. They found a slight leak on Dudley Rd from a hydrant not fully closed and turned it off. The tech said this is fairly common and caused if the hydrant isn't completely turned off. Dan thinks it may be related to the recent flow tests.

Dan updated the commission on the FY20 Liens. We sent out 6 letters. 2 of them paid so far and the deadline is 11/9.

The commission discussed 6 Bates. Kevin spoke with Sandra McSweeney about issues she was having due to air in her pipes and dirty water. She had to run a lot of water to clear up the sediment that was stirred up. Dan said it appears we have issues any time a hydrant is used.

Kevin made a motion to abate \$20 off her water bill due to the excess water needed to flush the lines, Allan seconded and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45pm.