

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: 10/7/2021

Meeting Location: Mendon Town Hall, Upper Meeting Room

Minutes Approved: 1/6/2022

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

Water Clerk: Dan Byer

Others: Richard Turi

Absent:

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

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/4/21 and 6/22/21 meetings, Allan seconded and all approved.

Kevin made a motion to approve the minutes of the 7/8/21, 8/5/21, 9/2/21 meetings, Vin seconded, all approved.

The commission reviewed and signed the following bills.

White Water – sept billing

Dig Safe – 3rd quarter billing

Hopedale – first quarter billing

Amazon (envelopes)

Quadient Finance (Postage)

Allan asks Kevin to run the public hearing. Kevin opens the public hearing at 7:30pm. Dan confirms they received no written comments. Kevin reviews current arrangement for the water system. Mendon buys all its water from Hopedale and is forced to charge enough to cover the costs. Hopedale has informed us of a rate increase from \$6.55/100 cu ft to \$6.70/100 cu ft. This is a 10% increase. The commissioners proposed increasing the Mendon rates by 10% as follows:

0-50 cu ft increase by \$5 from \$30 to \$35.

50+ cubic feet increase 10% from \$9.20 to \$10.12

Fire connection fees increased 4" from \$100 to \$110, and 6" from \$150 to \$165.

Richard Turi (customer) asked about the Dudley Rd rate. Dan explained the complicated set up for the Dudley Rd rates. They take the total use, divide by 17 units, apply Hopedale's tiered rate, and then multiply by 17. Kevin explains this is the result of the lawsuit surrounding the creation of this contract. The overall rate is slightly cheaper but Mendon still has to do the same testing and sampling and therefore charges the same rates.

The commission reviews the capital fees. Richard Turi asked about the two different capital fees. Kevin explains the Hopedale capital fee is passed on to Hopedale and the \$12.50 local fee is kept in Mendon. The reason behind this fee is to start a fund for future infrastructure repairs and maintenance. Dan reviewed the totals. We closed out FY20 with a surplus of \$29,002.84 and the current surplus in the FY21 budget is \$16,672.88. **(Exhibit A)**

Kevin discussed the state grant for the replacement of the master meters and a study on the water system. They commissioners discussed the availability of future State and Federal funding for capital needs and expansion. One of the main allowable uses for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is water and sewer infrastructure. Kevin says we can stay where we are with higher than we want fees or try to expand, generate some more revenue and have room to lower rates and possibly find a cheaper source of water. Past boards have done studies with minimal success. It was 5-8 million to connect to Uxbridge back in the early 2000's and that cost has surely risen by now. Vin says \$300/ft is a decent ballpark for new water mains.

Kevin asked for comments from Allan and Vin. Both agree with the proposed rates. Vin said they are self-explanatory, we are just trying to cover our costs.

Kevin made a motion to set the water rates as follows to take effect immediately starting with the 2nd quarter billing:

Use of zero to 50 cubic feet - \$35 flat fee (\$5 increase)

Additional use over 50 cu. ft. - \$10.12 per 100 cu. ft. (10% increase)

No changes to capital impact fees

Fire Connection Fee 4"- \$110, 6"- \$165 (10% increase)

Vin seconded and all approved.

Dan discussed some proposed changes to the water regulations. **(Exhibit B)**. The changes include:

- Updated the fee schedule
- Revise new connection fees.
 - For new: Minimum \$1k for both residential and commercial (commercial is \$1x title v flow with min fee of 1k)
 - For re-activation \$100 a year up to \$1k (this is unchanged)
- Clarified items
- Added new section on fire service and hydrants
- Updated billing section to include pro-rating fees.
- Added new abatement policy for leaks and fees
- Remove requirement to advertise updates to regulations or rates in newspaper (will be mailed to customers only)

Kevin made a motion to approve the updated Water Rules and Regulations as amended 10/7/21, Vin seconded and all approved.

The commissioners closed the water hearing.

The commission discussed the water study committee. They would like to set the next meeting for 10/28. Kevin will send invites. They discussed state funds and possible uses for the \$25,000 earmark.

Vin talked to Uxbridge to get some more info. They might be interested in supplying Mendon but we need to discuss further. Allan discussed possible places to connect to Uxbridge.

The commission discussed the study committee and who to invite. They will invite the select board, town planner, planning board, finance committee, fire chief, and board of health.

Vin says if we can get a design ready then when future funding is available we will have a project ready to go.

Vin also talked to Bellingham. The issue there is political. Upton also does not have enough water. Vin asked about Milford. Allan said the Charles River basin is much more controlled. Kevin says Milford will be maxed out in 2026 according to their studies.

Dan said he went out with Vin and walked the system. They found signs of the old meter pit with Bellingham on Hartford Ave East just before the bridge over the Charles.

The commission discussed past water studies. Dan said they looked at shallow wells in 2003 in the RT 140 area and found nothing. There was a town wide study in 2000's that also found no surface water and only possible ground water locations. Vin thinks it's time for a new study. The commission discussed surface vs ground water and possible costs for treatment.

The commission discussed the master meters. Vin got a quote on an ultrasonic meter with no moving parts. They need to confirm they are fire rated per Tim. Dan and Vin will work on pricing.

The commission discussed a request for abatement of late fees from 21 Bates. The customer says they messed up the dates and accidentally paid late. The commission also discussed a required to waive the late fee and interest for 10 Dudley Rd, something went wrong with their bill pay and it didn't go through. Dan confirmed both are usually on time.

Kevin made a motion to waive the late fee and interest for 21 Bates St and 10 Dudley Rd, Vin seconded, and all approved.

The commission discussed a request for a flow test at 23 Cape. We will have White Water perform the test and bill the applicant for the cost.

The next meeting will be 11/4/21 and the water study meeting on 10/28.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Enterprise Fund History

<u>Description</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Water Charges	170.03	150,000.00	126,130.53	121,600.00	120,288.05	121,600.00
Capital Impact	28.42	32,136.00	30,659.22	32,108.48	31,987.06	32,108.48
Local Capital Impact	6.86	7,650.00	7,260.25	7,600.00	7,384.49	7,600.00
Fire Sprinkler Fees	-	1,600.00	1,750.00	2,400.00	550.00	-
--Late Fees	-	1,500.00	3,185.00	1,500.00	1,700.00	1,500.00
--Admin Fees	-	1,500.00	1,100.00	1,500.00	1,675.00	1,500.00
--Interest	0.01	200.00	406.50	200.00	754.09	200.00
--Betterments			-	-	-	-
--Misc Fee	25.00		525.95	-	1,419.00	-
--Water Liens			-	-	3,320.52	-
Penalties and Interest	25.01	3,200.00	5,217.45	3,200.00	8,868.61	3,200.00
TOTAL DEPT RECEIPTS	230.32	194,586.00	171,017.45	166,908.48	169,078.21	164,508.48
Appropriation from Retained Earnings		29,003.00	-	-	-	-
	230.32	223,589.00	171,017.45	166,908.48	169,078.21	164,508.48
TOTAL EST. REVENUE*						
<u>Description</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Budget</u>	<u>2020 Actual</u>	<u>2020 Budget</u>
Salaries	82.43	4,475.00	4,286.36	4,302.00	-	-
Contractor Services	902.16	12,000.00	11,102.25	11,000.00	11,331.75	10,500.00
--Postage	-	600.00	337.94	600.00	165.00	600.00
--Newspaper Ads	-	200.00	-	200.00	-	200.00
--Supplies	-	600.00	48.89	600.00	44.98	600.00
--Equipment Maintenance	-	6,850.00	5,548.22	5,500.00	5,073.00	5,500.00
--Water Tests	-	2,000.00	307.61	2,000.00	293.74	2,000.00
--Hydrant/Valve Maint.	-	3,250.00	-	3,250.00	-	6,500.00
Expenses	-	13,500.00	6,242.66	12,150.00	5,576.72	15,400.00
Purchase of Water	51,895.38	155,000.00	132,713.30	124,000.00	123,166.90	120,000.00
Water Infrastructure Repair/Replacement Fund	-	31,999.00			-	-
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES	52,879.97	216,974.00	154,344.57	151,452.00	140,075.37	145,900.00
TOTAL INDIRECT EXPENSES	-	6,615	0	10,917	0	10,917
TOTAL NET	\$ (52,649.65)	\$ -	\$ 16,672.88	\$ 4,539.48	\$ 29,002.84	\$ 7,691.48

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Name	Budget	Current	Expended		
(Enterprise) Water Salaries	\$4,302.00	\$15.64	(\$4,286.36)		
(Enterprise) Contractor Services	\$11,000.00	(\$102.25)	(\$11,102.25)		
(Enterprise) Postage	\$600.00	\$242.56	(\$357.44)		
(Enterprise) News Paper Ads	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$0.00		
(Enterprise) Supplies	\$600.00	\$551.11	(\$48.89)		
(Enterprise) Equipment Maint.	\$5,500.00	(\$48.22)	(\$5,548.22)		
(Enterprise) Water Tests	\$2,000.00	\$1,692.39	(\$307.61)	Enterprise Sub	
(Enterprise) Hydrant Maint	\$3,250.00	\$3,250.00	\$0.00	Total	
(Enterprise) Purchase of Water	\$124,000.00	(\$8,713.30)	(\$132,713.30)	\$8,063.93	
(Enterprise) Indirect Costs	\$10,976.00	\$10,976.00	\$0.00	PWS Sub-	
(Public) Water Dept Salary	\$1,434.00	\$5.04	(\$1,428.96)	Total	
(Public) Contractor Services	\$10,000.00	\$1,201.68	(\$8,798.32)	\$732.68	
(Public) Water Tests	\$2,000.00	(\$486.44)	(\$2,486.44)		
(Public) Hydrant Fees	\$9,700.00	\$12.40	(\$9,687.60)		
ATM 5/6/16 Article 9 - Meter Retrofit	\$10,602.00	\$10,602.00	\$0.00		
Water Admin Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Final Water Read Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00			
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000-0000-0000-0000	\$0.00	\$0.00			
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