

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: 10/28/2021

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: Tom Merolli (Chair of Economic Development Committee)

Absent:

The meeting started without an quorum at 7:05pm with Kevin Rudden, Dan Byer, and Tom Merolli in attendance.

Kevin updated Tom on the \$50K earmark from the state including \$25K for the master meters, and \$25K for a study. They shared with Tom the previous discussions on water expansion and interconnections.

Allan Kent arrived at 7:15 and the meeting was called to order with a quorum.

The commissioners discussed the 50K earmark from the state including \$25K for the master meters, and \$25K for a study. They feel the \$25k would best be used to look at an interconnect with Bellingham or a loop/secondary connection to Hopedale. Dan said the costs of the meters should be \$15K-\$35K depending on labor based on the info they have so far.

The commissioners discussed the town American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Mendon is getting 1.8 million dollars plus there are additional funds at the state level. There are limited allowed uses but one of the main ones is water and sewer infrastructure. They discussed possible connections to other towns. Uxbridge was looked at 10 years ago and the cost was 5 million. Bellingham is another option if we can work out the politics. All agree it would make sense to use the ARPA funds to do the preliminary engineering and design and then have the plans ready to go for the connections when additional state funds are available.

The commission discussed the overall system and where it would make sense to connect. The commission discussed applying for state funds to look at an interconnection with Uxbridge or looking at a local Mendon source. Upton does not have enough water.

Tom says the Economic Development Committee found out about a last minute grant opportunity and Jack Hunter (the interim town planner) applied for a study on water and sewer on Rt 16. Kevin is upset no one talked to the Water Commissioners first. We have an elected board in charge of water and the town is going and doing things on their own. Tom explained it was very last minute, someone from the state said Mendon had not applied and Jack offered to write something up for water and sewer since that seemed to be the biggest priority. All agree there needs to be more communication and groups need to work together. Kevin sent out invites to the Select Board, Town Administrator, Planning Board and others and no one other than Tom attended tonight.

Tom says the EDC would support a request for funds for engineering. Kevin says we can use the town ARPA funds to pay for the engineering and then ask the state for the construction funds. We would like to meet with the Select Board. Tom would like to see a larger meeting with multiple boards.

They discussed 12/9 as the next meeting date.

Allan mentioned the Cape Rd contract expires in 2021. We will need to reach out to Hopedale to discuss a renewal.

Allan mentioned he read an article about an expansion of the Blackstone system and we should see if that's a viable option for an interconnection.

Dan discussed an issue with 35 Edward Rd. The meter register has failed and appears to have been stuck for some time leading to a discrepancy between the amount we have billed and the true reading on the meter in the basement. He has replaced the meter with a new radio read unit. He is recommending we offer a partial abatement, bill the discrepancy at the old rate since it is old use and waive any late fees or penalties for the next 2 quarters to allow the customer to pay in installments.

Kevin made a motion to approve a \$256 abatement for 35 Edwards rd and allow the customer to pay in installments until the account is in good standing, Allan seconded and all approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm.