

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: 5/4/2023

Meeting Location: Upper Meeting Room, Mendon Town Hall

Minutes Approved: 10/12/23

Members Present: Allan Kent, Vincent Roy, Kevin Rudden

Water Clerk: Dan Byer

Others:

Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 with Kevin and Vin in attendance in person.

The commissioners signed the bills for White Water (April contract and sampling)

Kevin made a motion to authorize Dan to sign the May White Water contract bill when it arrives to ensure timely processing, Vin seconded, and all approved.

Allan Kent arrived at 7:15 pm.

The Commissioners opened the rate hearing at 7:15pm. They discussed the history of the system with the residents in attendance and explained the increases from Hopedale. Hopedale is increasing their rates from \$6.70 to \$9.54. Mendon is forced to “mark-up” Hopedale’s rate to cover our own costs for testing, etc. They discussed the current status of the water expansion study and options. The board stated they are doing all they can but there are no good options. Vin said we are between a rock and a hard place, at the mercy of Hopedale unless we can find another source.

Kevin said 40-50 years ago Mendon was a farm town, not interested in town water, now there is more demand for commercial and development and we can’t support it. The commission discussed the proposed warehouse development and the limits of the current contract with Hopedale. The 23 Cape developer would pay to repair a section of the main on Whitten Rd and pay quarterly costs for their fire connection.

The commission reviewed the progress on the water study. Vin said we are looking at \$400/ft for new water mains. A new system would be very expensive. They also discussed options to get water from other towns. So far none are interested.

Vin made a motion to approve increasing our rates by 10% to match Hopedale’s increase, including the \$12.50 local fee, effective starting with the 4th quarter billing, Kevin seconded, and all approved.

Complete listing of rates for reference:

Rate	Previous Rates	New Rates
Flat fee for all users	\$37.50	\$41.25
0-50 cubic feet	3.75¢	4.13¢
51-1,500 cubic feet	10.58¢	11.64¢
1,501-4,000 cubic feet	11.03¢	12.13¢
4,001+ cubic feet	11.46¢	12.64¢
Hopedale Capital Impact Fee	\$51.82	\$51.82/quarter
Local Capital Impact Fee	\$12.50	\$13.75/quarter
Fire Connection Fees (Quarterly Charge)	\$115 <6" \$170 >6"	\$126.50/quarter for connections under 6" \$187/quarter for 6" and larger connections

All agree to review the rates in 6 months.

The commissioners closed the public hearing.

The commissioners discussed the water study. Jack Hunter has been working on this and communicating with the involved parties.

The commission discussed the Cape Rd contract. As discussed at the previous meeting, Jack is working on some proposed changes. There are no updates at this time.

The commission discussed the Dudley Rd meter. No updates yet. They reviewed the grant that allowed us to purchase the meter and related supplies.

Dan updated the commission on PFAS issues. Hopedale is having issues with PFAS and will need treatment. This is probably one of the drivers in the rate increase. Also the Town Hall well (both new and old) have small levels of PFAS, under the limit of 20 ppt but requiring monthly testing.

The commission discussed a new issue that came up less than 48 hrs before the meeting regarding the old Asbestos Cement mains. All agree we should ask Woodward and Curran if they can help prepare a cost estimate to replace these lines. This might be a possible use of ARPA funds.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm/