

**WATER-SEWER COMMISSION MEETING**  
**October 10, 2017**

Members Present: Leo Collette, Dave Berger, Val Daigle, George Cornwall, Charlie Packard, Steve Nims, Julie Dean

Presenters: Mike Schrader, Peter Valenski, Jeff Faulkner of Tighe & Bond

Present for Tighe & Bond Presentation: Heather Budrewicz

CALL TO ORDER 6:00 p.m.

**Motion by Charlie Packard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Collette to approve the October 11, 2017 Agenda, vote was unanimous. Motion by Charlie Packard, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cornwall, to approve the September 12, 2017 minutes.**

NEW BUSINESS

Mike Schrader from Tighe & Bond wrapped up the Water portion of rate study and presented the Sewer portion of the study. Mike discussed that expenses will exceed revenues. Reserves are low and there are projects to be completed. Sherbert Road water main project was discussed. USDA funding has been applied for and \$6 million cost will be split as follows: Winchendon will be responsible for \$4 million and Ashburnham will be responsible for \$2 million. Funding would also cover paving Sherbert Road after the main has been installed. Dave Berger proposed that Water Department does not pay the whole cost for road reconstruction but rather only contributes to the cost for trench restoration.

Mike reviewed options to increase debt service fee and water tiers.

Leo Collette motioned to increase water debt fee and tier rates by 10% across the board for FY18. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cornwall and Val Daigle, Leo Collette & George Cromwell voted in favor of the 10% increase. Dave Berger and Charlie Packard were not in favor of a 10% increase. 3:2 vote, motion passed.

Mike Schrader recommended that the sewer rate be increased by 15% to catch up current debt. Leo Collette motioned to increase the sewer rate by the recommended increase of 15% for FY18. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cornwall. Leo Collette and George voted in favor but Charlie Packard, Val Daigle and Dave Berger were not in favor. 3:2 vote, motion did not pass.

Dave Berger suggested a 10% increase vs. the 15%. Mike told the board that he looked at a 12% increase when reviewing a 15% increase and discussed what the 12% increase would be. Dave Berger motioned to increase the sewer rate by 12%, motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leo Collette. Leo Collette, Val Daigle, George Cromwell and Dave Berger voted in favor of the 12% increase. Charlie Packard was opposed to the 12% increase.

OLD BUSINESS

Peter Valenski and Jeff Faulkner discussed the Ashburnham Wastewater Disposal Feasibility Study Proposal for Engineering Services for Oakson system. This study would cost \$32,000. The Oakson system deals with liquid flow and solids are pumped out. Ashburnham exceeds the flow threshold and needs to treat the flow to meet Mass. Guidelines as well as the discharge into the ground. It would cost and estimated \$5 to \$10 million for a treatment facility which would operate similar to our water treatment plant. Gardner is most likely the cheapest option even if they were to increase their rates. Heather Budrewicz needs to meet with the Mayor of Gardner to find out where Ashburnham stands before moving forward with this study. Dave Berger expressed he would like to be involved when meeting with the Mayor of Gardner.

Leo Collette motioned to table the proposal until after Heather Budrewicz & Dave Berber meet with the Mayor of Gardner and we have confirmation from Gardner on length of service. Dave Berger 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all voted in favor to table the proposal.

NEXT MEETING

Tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2017 6 p.m.

ADJOURN

**7:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by, *Julie Dean*