

RECEIVED
OCT 18 2018

Town of Ayer

TOWN OF AYER
TOWN CLERK

3:00pm
Noelma

WATER AND SEWER RATE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for March 14, 2018, 3:30pm

Attendance: Jannice Livingston, Rick Skoczylas, Mark Wetzel, Lisa Gabree, Niel Middleton, Robert Pontbriand, Mary Spinner, Pam Martin

Call To Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm by Jannice Livingston in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Ayer Town Hall.

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The Committee reviewed the DRAFT meeting minutes for January 17, 2018.

Motion: A motion was made by M. Spinner and seconded by R. Skoczylas to approve the January 17, 2018, meeting minutes. **Motion passed (8-0).**

Review/Discussion/Vote on Recommendation of Water Rates for FY 2019:

L. Gabree provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed water rates for FY 2019. One of the biggest factors is the funding necessary for the construction of the Grove Pond PFAS Plant. This approximate \$4.2 million dollar capital expenditure is significant in terms of impacts on the rates.

L. Gabree further stated that an analysis of the FY 2019 Water Enterprise Budget demonstrates the need for \$1,529,485 to be generated from the water rates. Based on this analysis a 2% increase in the water rates for FY 2019 is needed.

L. Gabree further stated that the proposed recommended water rates for FY 2019 would be as follows:

	Current	Proposed	% Increase
Step 1	2.52	2.57	2%
Step 2	3.12	3.18	2%
Step 3	3.69	3.76	2%

Motion: A motion was made by R. Skoczylas and seconded by M. Spinner to approve the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to raise the FY 2019 water rates by 2% for each of the three steps as presented. Motion passed (8-0).

Review/Discussion/Vote on Recommendation for Sewer Rates for FY 2019:

L. Gabree provided the Committee with an overview of the proposed sewer rates for FY 2019. The biggest challenge will be the development of a phased capital improvement plan for upgrading the 35-year-old wastewater treatment plant. She further advised that the sewer enterprise fund does not have as large of a surplus as the water enterprise and the sewer treatment process is a more expensive process.

L. Gabree further stated that an analysis of the FY 2019 Sewer Enterprise Budget demonstrates the need for \$2,915,708 to be generated from the sewer rates. Based on this analysis a 3.5% increase in the sewer rates for FY 2019 is needed.

L. Gabree further stated that the proposed recommended sewer rates for FY 2019 would be as follows:

	Current	Proposed	%Increase
Step 1	7.41	7.67	3.5%
Step 2	8.49	8.79	3.5%
Step 3	9.66	10.00	3.5%

Motion: A motion was made by R. Skoczylas and seconded by M. Spinner to approve the recommendation to the Board of Selectmen to raise the FY 2019 sewer rates by 3.5% for each of the three steps as presented.

Motion passed (8-0).

Update on PFAS Water Issues(s) and Proposed Solution:

M. Wetzel provided the Committee with an update on the PFAS water issues and the proposed solution of a PFAS Treatment Plant to be constructed at Grove Pond.

Other Water and Sewer Rate Issues for General Discussion:

R. Pontbriand advised that the FY 2019 Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing will take place on Tuesday, April 3, 2018, at 7:15pm as part of the Selectmen's Meeting. The Public Hearing will be advertised in the newspaper and on the Town's website and various Town social media. M. Wetzel will prepare the presentation on behalf of the Committee and the Committee Members are encouraged to attend.

There were no other water and sewer rate issues for discussion.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: The Committee will look to schedule the next meeting sometime after the Public Hearing on April 3, 2018, and sometime after Town Meeting is over in May.

Adjournment:


Motion: A motion was made by M. Spinner and seconded by R. Skoczylas to adjourn the meeting at 4:28pm.

Motion passed (8-0).

The meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by R. Pontbriand, Town Manager

Minutes reviewed and approved by the Committee on October 17, 2018

Signed:  10/17/2018
Robert A. Pontbriand
Town Manager