

Town of Ayer

WATER AND SEWER RATE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes for October 17, 2018, 3:30pm

Attendance: Jannice Livingston, Rick Skoczylas, Mark Wetzel, Lisa Gabree, 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 March 14, 2018.

Motion: A motion was made by M. Spinner and seconded by R. Skoczylas to approve the meeting minutes from March 14, 2018. **Motion passed (7-0).**

Review/Discussion of Any Items Related to the Water/Sewer Rates:

M. Wetzel stated that at the next meeting he would like to look at water tie-in fees and charges. As the Town has more multi-family units, tie-in fees should be reviewed and adjusted. Additionally, PFAS treatment of the water may increase the overall costs for service, and this should be looked at.

R. Pontbriand stated that with the departure of Niel Middleton as a representative from the significant user community, the Committee needs a new representative from the significant users, and this should be looked at for a future meeting.

Review/Discussion of the Water/Sewer Rate Model:

There was nothing new to report/discuss with respect to the rate model.

PFAS Update:

M. Wetzel provided the Committee with an update on the ongoing PFAS contamination issues and the development of the PFAS treatment plant at Grove Pond. He advised that they have tested four different medias and combinations of media for PFAS removal. He met with the DEP regarding the study related to this. Currently, a resin media and de-chlorination process is the way to proceed. There are still many variables to consider. The use of resins would result in a smaller building footprint. It appears that \$4.2 million would be the estimate cost. The Town can also submit for State revolving fund loans for the project. These are low to no interest loans and the Town's application would receive points for PFAS contamination. This program is federally funded and managed by the State. Construction of the PFAS Treatment Plan could commence in the summer of 2019 and would involve an expansion of the Grove Pond Water Treatment Plant.

M. Wetzel advise that he will continue to keep the Committee, the Board of Selectmen, and the Town Manager updated.

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Update on the Four Corners Sewer Project in Groton:

M. Wetzel advised that the project is completed and as of July 2018 there is one sewer connection. Ayer has billed Groton \$4,873 at this time. More connections are anticipated soon as development progresses.

Update/discussion on a Proposed Water Conservation Rate:

M. Wetzel stated that it is important that the Town demonstrate that it is committed to water conservation. Based on 2017 usage there would be a Conservation Rate charged at the top tier it would generate approximately \$10,000 a year. Some communities bill at the top tier or at a flat rate. This would be for second water meters for irrigation. M. Wetzel stated that he will prepare a one-page proposal for the next meeting.

New Business Related to Water and Sewer Rates:

L. Gabree stated that the wastewater contract with Devens will expire at the end of 2021 and the Town should hire a consultant in advance to analyze the minimum flow requirements and other technical components of the agreement.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: The Committee scheduled the next meeting for January 16, 2019, at 3:30pm.


Adjournment:

Motion: A motion was made by R. Skoczylas and seconded by M. Spinner to adjourn the meeting at 4:21pm.
Motion passed (7-0).

The meeting adjourned at 4:21pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by R. Pontbriand, Town Manager.

Minutes reviewed and approved by the Committee on January 16, 2019.

Signed:  1/16/2019
Robert A. Pontbriand
Town Manager