

RECEIVED

DEC 08 2016

12:30pm  
J. P. P.

Town of Ayer

WATER AND SEWER RATE REVIEW COMMITTEE TOWN OF AYER

Meeting Minutes for September 19, 2016, at 3:30pm

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

Absent: Jannice Livingston

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

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

The DRAFT meeting minutes from the June 6, 2016 meeting were reviewed by the Committee.

Motion: A motion was made by R. Skoczylas and seconded by M. Spinner to approve the June 6, 2016 meeting minutes. **Motion passed (7-0).**

Ayer Residents, Paul Fillebrown, Bob Schick, and a Mr. O'Grady appeared before the Committee regarding the proposed Senior Discount Program for water and sewer rates.

R. Pontbriand explained that the Committee is aware of the concerns regarding a Senior Discount Program for water and sewer rates. The Committee is also aware of the Citizens Petition regarding the creation of such a program. The Committee per the Board of Selectmen is committed to establishing the appropriate Senior Discount Program. He further advised that Selectman Livingston and Selectman Hillman stated that they will keep the public informed of the development and implementation of this program.

Water and Sewer Rate Model Review/Update and Discussion:

R. Pontbriand advised that for the next meeting there will be more information/detail to review and discuss.

M. Spinner asked what is the pay-off balance of the last Waste Water Treatment Plant upgrade borrow?

L. Gabree stated that the borrow is through the year 2025.

M. Spinner asked what the status of the Town's wells are?

M. Wetzel advised that there are three (3) new wells at Grove Pond. In terms of Spectacle Pond, there is Well #1 which is online; Well #2 which is deficient; and Well #3 whose status is unknown in progress.

Status Update on Water and Sewer Projects:

M. Wetzel provided a brief update on the Town's various water and sewer projects.

Proposed Irrigation/Water Conservation Rate:

M. Wetzel stated that with respect to the ongoing challenges facing the Town's water supply in terms of droughts and drought warnings on the State and County level as well as increased consumption during the summer months to water lawns and fill pools, the Town should consider an irrigation/water conservation rate. This would serve two purposes: 1. To increase water consumption awareness and conservation; and 2. Charge users of the water for purposes of watering lawns. It is a matter of equity.

There was consensus among the Committee in support of some kind of irrigation/water conservation rate. M. Wetzel would further develop a proposal for further review and discussion at a future meeting.

Scheduling of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be scheduled for Monday, December 5, 2016 at 3:30pm.

Adjournment:

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:45pm.

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

Minutes reviewed and approved by the Committee on December 5, 2016.

Signed:  12/5/2016

Robert A. Pontbriand

Town Administrator