

FINAL APPROVED
MINUTES OF THE WATER & SEWER COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, February 23, 2023
TOWN HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 1:00 P.M.

Members Present: Normand Houle, Chairman, Chris Robillard, (Superintendent of Public Works), Carl Roediger, Richard White, Dave McGuckin (SB Liaison), Scott Stringham

Members Absent: Walter Liff, John Ireland

Chair Normand Houle opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. This meeting was out-of-schedule to reexamine the FY24 budget which had not reached agreement at the 16 February meeting, and to do a final review of the Water and Sewer Ordinance. A quorum was present and Mr. Stringham was included as a voting member.

1. FY 24 Budget Build

Chair Houle asked Mr. Robillard to lead the discussion. Having discovered errors in the budgets which were presented last week, Mr. Robillard proceeded to present updated numbers.

Following discussion of the water budget which provides for \$17,500 in capital reserves, Chair Houle made the following motion: "Pursuant to the development of the FY24 budget, the volumetric water rate will be set at \$8.65." Mr. White seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following discussion of the sewer budget which provides for \$50,000 in capital reserves, Chair Houle made the following motion: "Pursuant to the development of the FY24 budget, the sewer rate will be set at \$23.14." Mr. Roediger seconded, and the budget passed with a vote of four in favor and one (Mr. McGuckin) opposed.

During the discussion of the sewer budget, Chair Houle brought up the discrepancy between the New Castle meter at River Rd. and the meter at the Portsmouth Waste Water Treatment Plant. New Castle and Portsmouth have jointly identified an inconsistency between the meters. To help explain/resolve the discrepancy, Mr. Robillard was authorized to spend up to \$5,000 to work with Northeast Integration, our SCADA support contractor, to install equipment and analyze data which should provide insight into the accuracy of our meter.

2. Water & Sewer Ordinance Update - Final Review and Approval

Mr. Roediger updated the ordinance file as members presented final corrections. He will forward the updated ordinance to Mr. McGuckin for Select Board review and approval.

3. Any Other Business for the Board

Chair Houle polled the members about the formulation of a "Pre-App" (initial application which is made to NHDES in the "competition" for state funding of projects) regarding Inflow/Infiltration (I&I). Last year, he submitted a Pre-App to study the I&I challenge, while Mr. Andy Sharpe of Underwood Engineers, on behalf of the Town, submitted a Pre-App regarding remediation of the problem. Neither Pre-App "made the cut." In light of the indisputable problem evidenced by the 23 December storm, the commission consensus was that study would only delay resolution, and that the Town should proceed to remediation as soon as possible. Chair Houle will be discussing the issue with Mr. Sharpe to consider a "Phase 1" remediation project to address the most serious manholes as soon as possible, with a Phase 2 submitted later to address others.

4. Adjourn.

Mr. White made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Stringham. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:46 p.m.