



*Town of Walpole
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners*

*John Hasenjaeger, Chair
Pradeep Mishra, Clerk
William Abbott, Member
Patrick Fasanello, Member
Jeffrey Fisher, Member*

Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 13, 2022

6:00 P.M.

**Finance Committee Room
Town Hall-135 School Street**

This meeting was taped and will be available on Walpole Media's YouTube Channel

A regular meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Monday, June 13, 2022 at Town Hall, 135 School Street, Finance Committee Room. The meeting is called to order by Patrick Fasanello at 6:00 p.m.

Present at the Meeting:

Sewer and Water Commissioners:

John Hasenjaeger, William Abbott, Patrick Fasanello, Pradeep Mishra and Jeffrey Fisher

Other Participants:

Scott Gustafson, Sewer & Water Superintendent, Stephen Nunnery, Assistant Sewer & Water Superintendent, Rick Mattson, Director of DPW

6:00 p.m. Vote reorganization of the Sewer and Water Commission-Chair and Clerk

Mr. Fisher nominates Mr. Abbott for Chair position. No second.

Mr. Fasanello nominates Mr. Hasenjaeger for Chair Position. **Seconded by** Mr. Mishra

4-1-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-Yes Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-No

Mr. Hasenjaeger opens nominations for Clerk.

Mr. Fasanello nominates Mr. Mishra for Chair Position. **Seconded by** Mr. Abbott

5-0-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-Yes Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Aye

Abatelements: (to be delivered for vote)

Discussion had on abatements.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott **Seconded by** Mr. Mishra to approve abatements.

4-0-1 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Abstain

Superintendents Status Report:

Mr. Gustafson reports Chandler Ave rehab is complete, only waiting for the fencing around struction. Leonard Road is still waiting for upsize gas meter for generator, but both are running under their own power. If the power fails, contractor will have generator there to run station. There was a water main on

Main Street that was hit, a leaking valve on East & Main which was cut and capped and a service leak on Maguire Park. Mr. Fisher requests update on Morningside. Mr. Gustafson reports no construction started. No time table at this time. Would start after Eleanor Road.

Discussion Items:

1. Board Secretary

Mr. Fasanello adds discussion of the Board Secretary position and the proper procedure for interviewing the applicants.

2. Rebates

Discussion continues on rebates and whether or not to continue to support the policy for giving rebates on the low flow water appliances. Board members request to postpone decision on this based on attaining more data.

3. Production & Revenue Reports

Mr. Hasenjaeger adds brief discussion on the two reports. Discussion is also had regarding chart showing cost comparison with surrounding towns.

6:30 p.m.-Public Rate Hearing

Motion made by Mr. Fisher *Seconded by* Mr. Abbott to open the rate meeting.

5-0-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Mr. Abbott makes presentation. Original proposal voted on would not work based on vote taken at Town Meeting regarding retained earnings usage. He gives quick overview of expenses and revenue of the Water & Sewer department, along with accompanying reports projected on screen, breaking down the different costs to the department and charges that are applied to make up the revenue. Mr. Fisher brings up Septage discussion that the board discussed prior. Mr. Fasanello asks about past retainer paid by City of Boston to Town of Walpole for use of Septage. Mr. Mattson confirms that the retainer agreement had expired and was never renewed.

Mr. Abbott continues with a projection of the Proposed FY 2023 Water Rates. There would be slight increases in Residential and Commercial rates as well as Irrigation rates: 2.5% for Tiers 1 & 2. 5% for Tier 3 and 7.5% for Tier 4. These percentages would also be proposed for the small amount of Out of Town Residential/Commercial Rates. A new rate that would be added would be a Fire Suppression Assessment of \$500 which would affect approximately 100 Commercial Rates.

For the proposed FY 2023 Sewer Rate, it would remain a flat rate with an increase of 5%. Currently this is applied against 80% of non-irrigation water use. New rate would increase to 85% of non-irrigation water use. Mr. Abbott also gives a breakdown of the Tiers and how the increases would look.

Discussion continues with board members regarding the rates and proposed changes as well as other options. Floor is opened up for comments and questions from audience. Mr. Snuffer concerned over being confused by all the numbers discussed by board and the size of the increase. Mr. Hamilton concerned regarding audit being done that was voted on. Mr. Fasanello has reached out to the state regarding an audit. Town Administrator has hired Doug Gardner of Pioneer Consulting Group to

perform Audit. Mr. Damish inquires about the 18% increase vs. the new numbers. Mr. Johnson, Town Administrator responds to Mr. Fasanello's comments regarding the requested Audit and confirmation of what was said via email as well as the consultant.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr. Mishra to close the hearing to public comments.

4-0-1 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-Abstain Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr. Fisher to adopt rates displayed in presentation as FY2023 Water/Sewer Rates

Discussion by Mr. Mishra, who proposes raise rate, but flat 2.5% for all tiers. Mr. Abbott stands on motion as made.

3-2-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- No, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Discussion had regarding confusion regarding prior vote for the rates. Mr. Fasanello did not realize the Water and Sewer.

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr. Mishra to reconsider the prior vote for rates.

4-0-1 (YES VOTE)

Discussion by Mr. Fisher, does not support this as it was already voted on. Mr. Mishra ,like Mr. Fasanello was under the impression first vote was only for Water, not both, Water and Sewer

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-Yes Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Abstain

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr. Hasenjaeger to accept Water Rates as given in presentation.

3-2-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- No, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr.Fisher to accept Sewer Rates as given in presentation.

Discussion had. Mr. Mishra requests consideration of amendment, Mr. Abbott will not consider.

Discussion continues on the details of this proposal again before the final vote.

3-2-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- No, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Motion made by Mr. Abbott Seconded by Mr. Fisher to close the public hearing.

5-0-0 (YES VOTE)

Roll call John Hasenjaeger-Yes, William Abbott-Yes, Patrick Fasanello-No Pradeep Mishra- Yes, Jeffrey Fisher-Yes

Date Meeting Minutes Approved With Said Changes ***January 9, 2023***