

January 23, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Sewer & Water Commissioners was held on Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Town Hall, 135 School St.

Present: William Abbott, Tom Brown, and John Spillane. Also Rick Mattson, Supt. of Sewer and Water; James Johnson, Town Administrator; Marilyn Thompson, Finance Director; and Jodi Cuneo, Town Accountant.

Absent: Patrick Fasanello and John Hasenjaeger

Mr. Johnson says as previously agreed, the Sewer & Water Commission is meeting to review their budget and FY19 rates. He hands out final rate sheets for the Board's and discussion. He explains that he has taken an additional \$53,000 from sewer retained earnings to allow the Board to allow the rate to only increase by 3.1%. The water rate will increase by 1.15%. There is discussion on how healthy the retained earnings are for both accounts; sewer is at \$2,067,153 and water is \$1.266 million.

Sewer and water articles for the Spring Annual Town Meeting are discussed and confirmed. The first is seeking authorization by Town Meeting to negotiate and possibly enter into agreements for the purpose of a connection to the MWRA water system as a supplement to Walpole's water supply if needed. Next are the water and sewer operation and maintenance budget articles which are funded by each enterprise account. The last article is a 15 year borrowing article for the replacement of cast iron water mains at various locations throughout town. It was previously thought and voted to seek authorization to use the retained earnings (\$53,000) towards reducing the new sewer rate however since it is included in the rate sheets, this is unnecessary.

Mr. Abbott asks Ms. Thompson if the Lincoln Road/Alice Ave. project has been borrowed and included in the debt and Ms. Thompson says yes. Mr. Mattson says the debt is down this year and Ms. Thompson says it will be down even more next year.

Mr. Brown asks what trucks are being replaced and Mr. Mattson responds it will be the Asst. Superintendent's and the meter van.

Mr. Abbott says now that the dioxane pilot is done and he does not see any article and Mr. Mattson explains it is Priority #4 of 2019 and we will bump it to 2020. Ms. Thompson says next year will be tight if we try to fit in the dioxane. Mr. Brown asks if we know the next step with Counsel and Mr. Mattson says we need to see the results of the pilot study. Mr. Johnson says we will reach out to Mark Reich of Kopelman & Paige to see what is next.

The Board is asked if there are any more questions and there are none. **Motion Made** by William Abbott that 4 articles to be placed on the Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant and sponsored by the Sewer & Water Commission as previously discussed during this meeting; 1.To seek authorization from Town Meeting to negotiate and possibly enter into agreements for the purpose of a connection to the MWRA water system as a supplement to Walpole's water supply if needed; 2. Water operation and maintenance budget article which is funded by water enterprise account; 3. Sewer operation and maintenance budget article which is funded by sewer enterprise account; 4. A 15 year borrowing article for the replacement of cast iron water mains at various locations throughout town. Also to agree with the water increase of 1.15% for FY19 which is \$59.20 and the sewer increase of 3.17% which is 90.39. The Town Administrator is directed to move forward with this motion. Second by Tom Brown. Vote 3-0-0.

Motion Made by Tom Brown to adjourn. Second by John Spillane. Vote 3-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Accepted February 26, 2018