

## WATER-SEWER COMMISSION MEETING

January 14, 2014

Present: Val Daigle, Charlie Packard, George Cornwall, Dave Berger, Steve Nims, Doug Briggs and Mary Calandrella  
Absent: Leo Collette

### CALL TO ORDER

6:00pm

Motion to Approve the January 14, 2014 Agenda motion by George Cornwall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Packard, vote was unanimous.

Motion to accept the November 12, 2013 minutes by George Cornwall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Packard, vote was unanimous.

### OLD BUSINESS

Steve Nims spoke to the commission on the new paving at the water tank and the installation of the temperature sensor at the treatment plant. These two items were done with the remaining monies from the water tank project. Steve and Doug also mentioned that they are still waiting on legal advice from town counsel on the Far Hill Association bond debt fee matter.

### NEW BUSINESS

Doug Briggs brought forward to the commission a proposed sewer rate increase from \$ 10.50 to \$ 11.50 effective for the February 2014 billing. He told the commissioner that there was a deficit in the FY13 budget and the town had to cover this shortfall. It was stated by DOR that revenues would have to increase or expenditures would have to decrease. Charlie asked if the expenses could be cut to avoid increase to the rate. All expenditures have been carefully looked at by Doug and Steve and adjusted have been made to give a true cost of Sewer enterprise account. Charlie asked if two personnel from Sewer could be let go. Val asked then who would work on a water or sewer break. Charlie mentioned it could be hired out to a contractor. Charlie and Val both thought it was a large increase and that most homeowners could not burden the increase. Dave Berger made a **Motion to raise the sewer rate to \$ 11.50**, 2<sup>nd</sup> by George Cornwall, vote was 2 yes – 2 no, vote was tied and **did not pass**. The deciding vote will take place upon Leo Collette's return next meeting. Dave Berger mentioned looking at other ways to raise revenue i.e. charging based on meter head size, hydrant charges to Far Hill or the increase bond debt. Val asked Mary to compile a list of other town's rates for meter head size for the next meeting.

### COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Leo provided the commission with a water usage data sheet from the treatment plant for both Ashburnham and Winchendon. The DEP contacted Leo with concerns of our usage being higher than our permit allows.

Doug told the commission that the USDA grant that the town applied for was granted with a 25-30 % reimburse rate. They are however still waiting on the release of these loans and it could be either Spring 2014 or Fall 2014.

### NEXT MEETING

February 11, 2014 @ 6:00pm

### ADJOURN

Motion by: George Cornwall, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Charlie Packard, vote was unanimous. 7:08pm

Respectfully Submitted by *Mary Calandrella*