

Town of Ayer

Ayer Board of Selectmen

FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rate(s) Public Hearing

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 7:00 PM

1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room – Ayer Town Hall  
1 Main Street, Ayer, MA 01432

Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Attendance: Christopher R. Hillman, Chair; Jannice L. Livingston, Vice-Chair; Gary J. Luca, Clerk

Others in Attendance: Robert A. Pontbriand, Town Administrator; Lisa Gabree, Town Accountant and Finance Manager

Call To Order: Chairman Hillman called the Meeting to Order at 7pm.

**MOTION: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the meeting agenda as posted. Motion Passed 3-0.**

G. Luca, Clerk of the Board of Selectmen read the Public Hearing Notice for the FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rate(s) Public Hearing into the record.

**MOTION: A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to open the Public Hearing. Motion Passed 3-0.**

Presentation of the Proposed FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rate(s)

R. Pontbriand: Publically recognized and thanked the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee for their work. Selectman Livingston, Mary Spinner, Rick Schochyls, Rick Guercero (CAINS) with professional staff support from the Town Administrator, Town Accountant, and DPW Superintendent.

L. Gabree (Town Accountant and Finance Manager) presented the proposed FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rate(s) as recommended by the Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee [See Attached Power Point Presentation]

J. Livingston asked for clarification about the difference in the net required water rates.

L. Gabree explained that the difference was due to a previous software billing error. L. Gabree further recommended that after quarterly billing is in place that the Town considers using an outside consultant to look at the consumption rates.

J. Livingston agreed and stated that the Town needs to move away from using the term "surplus" as residents and the public continue to ask if there is a surplus than why are the rates increases.

L. Gabree agreed and further stated that the Town needs to show the respective histories of the water and sewer stabilization funds. Finally, L. Gabree stated that at the June 2015 Quarterly Water and Sewer Rate Review Committee that we will look at the history of the funds as well as the projections for the funds.

M. Spinner stated that the Town has always had a business owner from the SIUs on the Rate Review Committee for the purposes of serving as a liaison to the other businesses and that the quarterly meetings have been instituted as they help keep everyone up on the various capital projects.

**MOTION:** A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by J. Livingston to approve the FY 2016 Water and Sewer Rates as follows:

FY 2016 Water Rates		FY 2016 Sewer Rates	
Step 1	\$2.47	Step 1	\$6.94
Step 2	\$3.07	Step 2	\$7.94
Step 3	\$3.62	Step 3	\$9.04

**Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

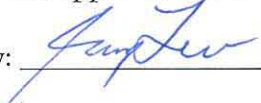
**MOTION:** A motion was made by G. Luca and seconded by C. Hillman to close the Public Hearing. **Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

**MOTION:** A motion was made by J. Livingston and seconded by G. Luca to adjourn. **Motion passed unanimously 3-0.**

**The Board of Selectmen adjourned at 7:44pm.**

Minutes recorded and submitted by R. Pontbriand, Town Administrator

Minutes reviewed and approved on: April 7 2015

Minutes signed by:  Gary J. Luca, Clerk