



TOWN OF MEDWAY
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION
MEDWAY, MASSACHUSETTS

Commissioners

Cranston Rogers, Chair
Robert Wilson, Member
Peter Gluckler, Member

Meeting Minutes

June 18, 2012 – 6:30pm
Medway Public Library – 1st Floor Conference
26 High Street, Medway MA

Present: Chan Rogers, Peter Gluckler, Robert Wilson, DPS Deputy Director David D'Amico, and Business Manager Sarah Pawluczzonek.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm by a motion from Robert Wilson.

Peter Gluckler seconded.

Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Abatement – 102 Summer Street

Sarah Pawluczzonek explained the abatement for 102 Summer Street. The homeowner was claiming the property has been vacant since they bought it in 2009. They have been renovating and hooked up to Town Sewer in August of 2010. They have never been metered so they have been being billed the sewer flat rate of \$125. Are seeking an abatement on the sewer charges due to vacancy. Sarah explained that we are unable to prove vacancy since there is no meter to see if there was zero usage, however we did intend to have a meter installed ASAP.

Robert Wilson made a motion that we table this abatement until the next meeting, where he would like to see some more evidence of vacancy, possibly from a future lack of metered consumption.

Peter Gluckler seconded.

Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.

David D'Amico made a suggestion that when the Board is presented with the abatement at the following meeting, that it considers how the removal of the water capital charge will affect its rulings on vacancy abatements for water and sewer charges. The fact is that the accounts still have to be administrated and so they should possibly consider only abating to the minimum charges or some other fair charge.

Robert Wilson asked what an administrative cost would amount to.

Sarah Pawluczzonek answered that for assessing an administrative service fee on final bills, which take as much effort, that they had calculated a cost of \$40.

Rate Hearing

Robert Wilson made a motion to open the Public Rate Hearing at 6:40pm.

Peter Gluckler seconded.

Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Jessica Trufant (a public participant) asked if the consumption went against the rate and tier structure quarterly.

Sarah Pawluczonek answered that it was semiannual.

David D'Amico explained the proposed rates of an approximate 4% increase on both water and sewer. He explained that the water rate appears to be a 26% increase which is alarming, but that 22% of that increase is really the absorption of the water capital fee into the rates. There will no longer be a separate water capital fee. We looked at the math and for anyone using 8200 cubic feet a year they should see no increase to their water charges, meaning that anyone using less will see savings, and anyone higher will see increases. The average residential usage annually is 8000 cubic feet. We should also take into account that last year we had lowered minimums charges to help the conservative user. We then began offering the Lifeline Discount to elderly, disabled, and veterans in need of some assistance through a 25% discount of the entire bill.

David D'Amico also explained that the sewer rates have been raised the 4% to get ahead of the large CRPCD (Charles River Pollution Control) capital assessment that will be assessed to us in FY14. We wanted to begin collecting some of the revenue to pay for that bill so we don't have to have a much larger increase in FY14.

Robert Wilson mentioned that these are all examples of the departments increase in efficiency. He asked the room if there were any other questions regarding the rates.

No public commentary.

Robert Wilson made a motion to close the Public Rate Hearing at 6:50pm.

Peter Gluckler seconded.

Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Robert Wilson made a motion to approve the Medway Water and Sewer FY13 Rate Schedule as presented.

Peter Gluckler seconded.

Motion approved, unanimous vote, 3-0.

Executive Session

"See Executive Session Meeting Minutes"

Respectfully submitted,

**Sarah Pawluczonek
Executive Assistant
Department of Public Services**