

**TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY**

Minutes of Special Meeting of June 10, 2020

Members Present: Paul Anderson, John Mazza and Jim Richards

Others Present: WPCA Superintendent E. Arthur Enderle III

The recording secretary was not present for the meeting. The minutes were transcribed from a recording.

Time and Place

Paul Anderson, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. at the WPCA Admin Building, 192 South Water St, East Windsor, CT

I. Public Hearing

Revision to Sewer Use Charge

Motion: To open the public hearing on proposed revision to sewer user charges.
Mazza/Richards
Passed unanimously

Motion: To dispense with the reading of the individual revisions as itemized in the legal notice.
Mazza/Richards
Passed unanimously

Mr. Anderson read the legal notice that was published in the *Journal Inquirer* on May 30, 2020 without the individual revisions. No one from the public was present. Mr. Anderson asked if there was any discussion; there wasn't any.

Motion: To close the public hearing on proposed revision to sewer user charges.
Mazza/Richards
Passed unanimously

II. Action on Revision to Sewer User Charges

Motion: To adopt the proposed revision to the sewer user charge in accordance with the legal notice as published.
Mazza/Richards

Discussion: Mr. Richards asked is the effective date was July 1, 2020. Mr. Enderle explained that the Governor's Executive Order has given residents the option to pay until October 1, 2020. If payment is not received prior to October 2, 2020, the rate payer will be liable to interest from July 1st, which is 6% interest. We are sending out bills as normal, some rate payers will be given the option to defer payment. Mr. Richards asked if that is enough; people are under employed and unemployed. People need help. The WPCA is a separate entity and he wants to be sure we are doing all we can for the rate payer. Mr. Enderle explained that by State Statue we can't waive interest. The Executive Order has

allowed for a three month deferment. We like to follow what the Tax Collector is doing. We allow delinquent rate payers to make time payments. The WPCA has adopted a delinquent policy. Mr. Richards explained that he wants to be sure we are doing everything we can and it sounds like this has been discussed. Mr. Richards felt that if the Board feels more needs to be done, they could speak to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Anderson explained that the Board of Selectmen can make the decision to do something; the WPCA cannot. Mr. Richards explained that if the WPCA feels it is unfair, they can speak up to the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Richards wants to be sure the Board has tried their best to make the situation easier on the rate payer. When the bills go out, if the rate payer has a major problem, they can call down here.

Passed unanimously

Motion: To impose a rate of \$404.00 per sewer user unit based on 5,060 sewer units, for a billable budget of \$1,985,835.33 for the FY2020-21.

Mazza/Richards

Discussion: Mr. Mazza thought the rate was going to be \$416. Mr. Enderle explained the current rate is \$388 and with a \$16 increase the rate will be \$404. Mr. Richards feels this is the real price and the rate is better than South Windsor and surrounding towns. Mr. Enderle stated this is a good budget and we don't have any debt. Mr. Mazza doesn't want the "slush fund" to be used to lower rates. They need money in savings in case of an emergency and they need to buy something. Mr. Richards felt there is a need to approach the increase as a positive and not a negative. Mr. Enderle explained that is how it has been done in the past. Mr. Mazza felt it should be explained that rates were expected to be higher but the rate payer is getting a savings. Mr. Enderle explained that our rates are not higher because we use our own talent to take on projects ourselves. Mr. Richards explained that he thinks what Mr. Mazza is trying to say is that we were anticipating a rate of \$416 but it is \$404. Mr. Richards would like a copy of the billing insert included with the Town's Annual Report and copies given to Planning and Zoning to be handed out in their office. Mr. Anderson suggested explaining that while we had to increase our rate, it is to maintain our system and we don't want to have to increase it in an extraordinary manner in the future. We are here to protect you.

Passed unanimously

III. Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

Mazza/Richards

Passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Michael
Recording Secretary