



TOWN HALL | 39 SOUTH STREET | HINSDALE, MA | 01235 | 413-655-2300

## **WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES / October 4, 2017 at 3:30pm**

Hinsdale Water & Sewer Commissioners/Select Board present –Harvey Drosehn, Rich Kardasen  
Select Board remotely – Laurel Scialabba  
Public & Board Members Present –Kathe Warden, Bob Graves, Larry Turner, Mary Rice and Richard Scialabba

Harvey opened the meeting at 3:30pm and said that Laurel was attending remotely.

Laurel says the Town has received a letter from DEP stating the Town must do an Inflow and Infiltration study of the Sewer System. Larry Turner has spoken with Dan Kurpaska of DEP and the Town received an extension till December 2018 to get the project done.

The reason for the study is to find if there is storm-/groundwater leaking into the sewer system which is then being treated at the sewer plant. Larry says that Dave Prickett Consulting would be a good choice to hire and help the Town get through this process. The first phase of the project would cost approximately \$4,978.00. Then would be the monitoring phase, then the evaluation phase and then the repair phase of this project. This is an unfunded mandate by the State.

There is a MA Dept. Planning and Development Grant available to help offset the project cost with a 90-10 split. David Prickett will do the work for under \$2,000.00. Larry says money for David Prickett can come out of Sewer I & II surplus or the infrastructure account. A discussion follows about where the money can come from. Rich makes a motion to fund David Prickett to do the grant proposal from Sewer I & II surplus for up to \$2,000.00, Harvey seconds the motion, Laurel votes aye, Harvey votes aye and Rich votes aye.

Larry said that the Sewer rate study should continue for at least 6 months. David Prickett is not sure if just one year worth of data is enough. A discussion follows about how long will be enough time as well as what has been told to the residents.

Larry wanted everyone to know he talked to Diane Sturtevant about one of the water loans and paying it off with Water surplus. There is no prepayment penalty to paying the loan off. It would free up money for repairs, etc. A discussion of prepayment of loans follows. This will have to go to a special town meeting to have it decided.

Harvey makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:54pm, Rich seconds the motion, Laurel votes aye, Harvey votes aye and Rich votes aye.

Respectfully submitted,  
Katherine Warden



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## WATER & SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES / July 10, 2017

Select Board present – Laurel Scialabba, Harvey Drosehn, Richard Kardasen

Public & Board Members Present – Kathe Warden, Larry Turner

Laurel Scialabba opened the meeting at 2:00pm. She said that the rates were set at the previous meeting but not the policies, which need to be updated for FY 2018. Larry Turner says that under current policy a late payment is charged after 30 days for both Water and Sewer. That rate is \$10.00 per usage line. After 60 days a shut-off notice is sent, and another charge is added to the bill, at the 90-day mark the water is shut off and another charge is added and continues to add every month until the bill is paid. Penalties continue to build up after 90 days. At the end of the fiscal year the accounts will go to tax lien and show up on the tax bills but that could be at least 12 months later. He feels the fee of \$10.00 is too low and not much of a deterrent and would like to see it raised. A discussion follows about the amount to charge and should it be a flat fee or a percentage. It is decided to raise the fee to \$20.00 per usage line per month.

Larry then says the current fee for shutting off and turning on a water customer is \$50.00 for each. He feels if the shut off is for nonpayment it should be a flat fee of \$100.00. He also would like the fee for the initial hookup for new water service to be raised in line with the Sewer fee of \$800.00. There is a discussion of if this is enough increase or if both should be raised higher. It is decided to increase the Water new hookup rate to \$800.00

Larry also says there isn't a penalty for anyone tampering with the water system or the meters. A discussion follows and is decided to assess a penalty of \$200.00 plus labor at \$35.00 per hour and cost of material to repair any damages.

Larry brings up that the Assistant Town Accountant is not going to be working during the day. He is concerned about the water and sewer receivables being posted in a timely manner. The Water and Sewer Dept. covers an annual cost of \$1,000.00 to have the receivables posted. Laurel says she needs to meet with Elaina and see what Elaina is planning on doing. She will get back to Larry about it. Laurel says there was a letter sent from Camp Romaca about the water system. Camp Romaca has been supplied with water from the town since 1969, and has pipes that are starting to wear, as well as the pressure has become low. They would like the town to replace the water system, which Camp Romaca provided an estimated system of \$85,000.00. Laurel said she would contact legal counsel and see how the town should proceed.

Harvey Drosehn makes a motion to change the late fees from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per line item, to make the reconnection fee of \$100.00 and a fee of \$800.00 for initial hook up to the water or sewer system. Rick Kardasen seconds the motion all voted aye. Harvey makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:51pm Rick seconds the motion all voted aye.

Respectfully submitted, Katherine Warden