



Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Town of Groton Sewer Department

173 Main Street
Groton MA 01450

Date: May 29th, 2019

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Location: Town Hall/Second Floor

Members Present: Chair/James Gmeiner
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

Others Present: Ann Livezey/Water & Sewer Assistant, Lauren Croy/Business Manager and Judy Anderson

The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:00 P.M.

Rate Hearing Usage Fee Regulations and Wastewater System Costs – Continued Hearing

Mr. Bouchard asked the BOSC if the goal was to get the Center District numbers closer to the Four Corners. Mr. Gmeiner replied that not the same, but maybe the methodology. He explained that Four Corners is different because of the quarterly fee we have to pay to Ayer. Mr. Gmeiner added that the Center District has new things coming in and we have 275K/GPD allotted and we cannot utilize because the system needs to be upgraded, therefore we need to build up the reserves.

Mr. Gmeiner stated we want to use the ERU method and the Four Corner Regulations as a building block for the Center District. Mr. Orcutt asked if we would base on dwelling units and put in separate water meters for demand charges. Mr. Orcutt feels dwelling units is how you collect and that the ERU method will drive the sewer. Mr. Orcutt mentioned Groton Residential has a meter tree based on how many dwelling units. He said take a building with 3-units and they increase to 5-units that would be more water and sewer and you would want to collect the demand charges. Mr. Bouchard asked if you take a 4-bedroom and subdivide, would that be two ERU's as opposed to the 1.333. Mr. Orcutt replied that the water department would require two separate service lines and charge a connection fee. Mr. Bouchard then asked what would happen when someone wants to revert back to a one family? Mr. Orcutt said they would disconnect service and no refund would be issued. Mr. Orcutt told the BOSC in order to maximize revenue we have to define how we assess the ERU on a building unit, he said multiple dwelling units you would asses a connection fee.

Ms. Anderson asked what would happen if the old Donelan's building was developed and there was a sandwich shop, nail salon/hair dresser and two offices in there and if they did not have separate meters how would you calculate usage because the usage would be all different. Mr. Orcutt replied that the

Water Department would have to put in five separate meters and have plumbed in with a meter tree. Ms. Anderson asked what if something were to get put in system and gets blocked and Mr. Orcutt replied that Mill Run and Groton Residential are both plumbed like that. Mr. Bouchard asked if the owner has an option to run a second line to the sewer? Mr. Orcutt replied they could with Pepperell's approval, but you can also get a blockage with no flow or minimal flow. Mr. Bouchard asked is the goal here is consistency with The Four Corners District and Mr. Gmeiner replied that what would be nice. Mr. Gmeiner told the BOSC that he feels using the ERU method would generate more than charging the capacity charge of \$6.58, which we pay to Pepperell. Mr. Gmeiner asked if what would consider for 10-beds outside the District three-bedrooms each and Mr. Orcutt replied that would be considered 10-Dwelling Units and with the ERU approach we would still collect the \$65K whether its two or three bedrooms. Mr. Orcutt said he is comfortable sticking with the \$6,000.00 ERU values. For Example, a new residential in the district would be \$6,000.00 x ERU as long as they do not go over three bedrooms. Mr. Bouchard said for a three-bedroom house I would get a fee of \$6,000.00/ERU and currently a three bedroom in the Center Sewer District would be \$6,500.00 plus capacity fee of \$6.58/per gallon. Mr. Gmeiner stated that with the ERU method we lose on residential fees, but with straight ERU we pick up with change of use and expansion within the district (expanding for a business purpose we would get more under the ERU method).

Mr. Orcutt said we have a financial issue with the sewer budget and we need to collect. Mr. Gmeiner also mentioned to utilize the capacity the upgrades need to be done. Mr. Bouchard asked with no new users we would still have to do the maintenance, so the existing revenue would pay for it. Mr. Orcutt told Mr. Bouchard that the BOSC incorporated a Capital Charge in the spring, but fee's may still need to be increased. Mr. Orcutt said the user fees pay for Annual Operating charges and Capital pays for other things such as the Pepperell Plant Upgrade. Connection fees pay for operating expenses and those customers set up for Capital pay the \$15.00 quarterly fee and that is for the Pepperell Plant Upgrade.

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to continue the Public Hearing on June 5th, 2019, Mr. Gmeiner seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Other Business:

Next Meeting – June 5th, 2019

BILLS SIGNED

One set of bills were signed at this meeting for FY19, Expense Warrant (EW-25)

MINUTES:

No minutes were approved at this meeting

ADJOURN –

Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:46 P.M., Mr. Gmeiner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey
Water & Sewer Assistant

APPROVED:
