

**WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020**

The Enfield Town Council, meeting in its official capacity as the Water Pollution Control Authority, held a Virtual Meeting on Monday, June 15, 2020. Chairman Ludwick called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL-CALL – Present were Commissioners Bosco, Cekala, Hemmeler, Kiner, Ludwick, Mangini, Muller, Riley, Sferrazza, Szewczak and Unghire. Also present were Town Manager, Christopher Bromson; Assistant Town Manager, Kasia Purciello, Town Clerk, Suzanne Olechnicki; Town Attorney, James Tallberg

RESOLUTION #4704 by Commissioner Mangini, seconded by Commissioner Muller.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Chapter 103, Section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Enfield Water Pollution Control Authority held a virtual public hearing on June 15, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. and accepted written comments on the proposed 2020-2021 Sewer Service Fee Schedule.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Enfield Sewer Authority does hereby adopt the Sewer Service Fee Schedule, attached hereto as “Attachment A”.

Mr. Bromson stated the proposal within the Town Manager’s budget was to stay at \$30 per quarter and for the usage fee to remain at \$3.49 and \$5.24, the volumetric, respectively. He noted two alternatives were given to the Council to even out the increase in FY2022 because there will be increased operating costs because the Clean Water Fund loan will be due, and that will increase by \$1.6 million the cost of Water Pollution Control. He noted the bonding will also come due of \$300,000, and they have a \$250,000 repayment to the General Fund and the anticipated operating positions when the plant is completed this fall for approximately \$220,000.

He noted the Council decided to go with the option to accept what the Novak Report was recommending, which would be a \$39.00 per quarter increase in FY2021 and then an equal increase in FY2022. He noted that will be a \$42.00 increase per household next year, and approximately \$42.00 the year after, rather than having it all occur in one year at \$83.00. He stated the total cost of the upgrade, which should be complete in October, was \$36 million dollars, and they will have a very state-of-the-art facility, and they want to be able to maintain it and properly service it and have appropriate personnel to do so. He noted the Council’s prudent action to accept this increase over two years is very advisable.

Councilor Kiner stated he will vote against this because he cannot get an answer as to why these costs are out of control. He stated he still believes it would be a good idea to have a separate non-partisan board comprised of residents, Town Council members, experts in water pollution, who can monitor the WPC and still allow the Town Council to set rates.

Mr. Bromson stated he respects every Councilors comment, but he disagrees with the characterization that the costs are out of control. He noted they are totally transparent in the budget, but unfortunately Water Pollution Control was never properly funded, and they were under the DEEP mandatory orders and facing millions of dollars a year in fines if they did not do the upgrades. He noted the Town got a Clean Water Fund loan of \$23 million dollars at 2%, and they received a grant for \$5.6 million dollars, which the Town does not have to pay back. He noted because of the Department of Corrections agreement, they were able to get \$2,500,00 towards the upgrade, and the Town also bonded at a very reasonable rate of 4.6%. He noted they do have to pay back the General Fund \$250,000 because each year in the past the Town failed to fund the Water Pollution Control plant properly and adequately.

He stated he welcomes a Water Pollution Control meeting in August when they can bring in Woodard & Curran and the plant operators, so they can discuss the cost of running this plant. He pointed out water pollution control plants are expensive to run, and in the past, they have provided comparisons with other communities, and Enfield is right in the middle. Enfield has been progressive and visionary, and they will have a great plant, which will help with economic development. He stated his belief the plant is very well run by the personnel at the plant, but over the years, the Town did not properly fund it, therefore, they must catch up.

Mr. Bromson stated his belief the Council members possess the requisite ability and financial acumen, as they do with the Town budget, to be able to monitor and shepherd WPC going forward.

Councilor Kiner stated obviously there is a disagreement, but he appreciates the August meeting being set up, and he looks forward and welcomes a meeting with anybody from WPC.

Councilor Cekala stated she will be supporting this. She noted nobody wants to raise rates. She stated the Council was presented with a couple options, i.e., not raising rates this year, however, she feels the lesser of all evils is to do the half increase this year. She noted the Council did not properly fund the WPC fund for quite some time. She recalled being told more than once that there would not be enough revenue to properly run this plant.

Mr. Bromson agreed the plant was not properly funded in the past.

Councilor Mangini recalled that the State of Connecticut promised contribution monies for the Department of Corrections, and she questioned whether Enfield is collecting all that is due from the State. Mr. Bromson responded yes. Councilor Mangini recalled in the past Enfield had to fight to get this contribution. She agreed with Councilor Cekala that a partial increase over a two-year period is wiser.

Mr. Bromson agreed that several years ago, it was difficult to get this contribution from the State of Connecticut.

Councilor Riley stated there is not a choice, and she agrees with splitting the increase over two years. She noted once everything is up and running at the plant, perhaps they can review things.

Councilor Szewczak stated she will support this, but she believes they really need a financial analysis of the Water Pollution Control. She noted she constantly hears that they do not know who is connected and whether people are properly connected. She stated it may behoove them to go back to Day 1 when they set the rate, and they said they would not have any rate increase for five years. She noted for the first five years, they set at a rate, and not the rate that was advised by their advisors, but a rate that the Council felt would be more palatable to the people of Enfield. She stated they were in a hole, and they dug that hole a little deeper through those five years. She noted they are now digging out of a hole, and it has to be understood the difference between the recommendations from Woodard & Curran and the Novak Report recommendations and try as a Commission to integrate them, so they understand how they're going to move forward. She agreed with Councilor Kiner because she feels a water pollution control subcommittee needs to expand to have a couple citizen members.

Councilor Unghire agreed with Councilor Szewczak and stated she does not want to see rates going up, but it is what it is for right now.

Councilor Hemmeler stated she doesn't want to see an increase, but it sounds like they've been kicking the can down the road, and they can't keep doing that, therefore, splitting up the increase is the logical thing to do. She agreed with Councilor Szewczak about needing a financial analysis.

Councilor Bosco stated although this may be just, he will not be supporting this.

Chairman Ludwick stated there was a very detailed presentation about a year ago, and he believes that is available on the Town's website. He stated his belief it was not easy to get the contribution from the State of Connecticut.

Mr. Bromson stated the construction going on at the Water Pollution Control plant is very disruptive, however, the employees at the plant are keeping the service, processing and treatment going during this project. He stated this has been a herculean effort, and he thanks all essential personnel at the WPC. He noted the Town was very fortunate to hire a Superintendent, who got them through a lion's share of this, and he will be retiring. He noted they have been able to hire a very capable individual, who will be taking over the reins in June, and he will be looking to his expertise to help the Town make recommendations in the future. He stated WPC is a critical service, and there is a task in front of them that is bigger than just the upgrade for WPC, i.e., pump stations and pipes. He noted he endorses and embraces what Councilors Kiner and Szewczak stated in that they will need a very vibrant subcommittee, and the Council paying attention. He stated his full attention is on this.

Mr. Bromson stated Enfield is in the works for some major companies coming into town, and because they have the capacity to be able to hook them up to water pollution control, the Town will realize millions of dollars in additional taxes to help with these projects.

Upon a **ROLL-CALL** vote being taken, the Chair declared **RESOLUTION #4704** adopted 9-2-0, with Councilors Bosco and Kiner voting against the resolution.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION #4705 by Commissioner Mangini, seconded by Commissioner Unghire to adjourn.

Upon a **SHOW-OF-HANDS** vote being taken, the Chair declared **MOTION #4705** adopted 11-0-0, and the meeting stood adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

**TOWN OF ENFIELD
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
SEWER SERVICE FEE SCHEDULE
Pursuant to §86-203(2)
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**

WATER USAGE BASED SEWER RATES

- Billed water consumption < 20,000 \$3.60 per 1,000 gallons
- Billed water consumption > 20,000 \$5.39 per 1,000 gallons

A seasonal adjustment is made by reducing the daily consumption of potable water for the months of June, July, and August by 7.5%.

**SEWER USAGE BASED RATES
(FOR SEWER USERS WITH SEWER METERS)**

- Significant users with sewer meters: charges will be computed by multiplying the quarterly volume of sewerage by \$5.39 per 1,000 and billed quarterly.

PRIVATE WELL BASED RATES

- Well Users will be charged quarterly based on the average consumption by user classification:
Residential and small non-residential 12,780 gallons per quarter for FY 20/21
Commercial and industrial 90,000 gallons per quarter for FY 20/21

The base quarterly charge for well users will be based on the smallest meter size.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

Interest will be charged on delinquent accounts at the rate of 1-1/2% per month, with a minimum charge of \$2.00, as provided by statute. Appeals for such charges must be filed within 30 days after the mailing of the bills. NOTE: Sewer Fees are the responsibility of the property owner.

BASE QUARTERLY CHARGE

METER SIZE	SIZE FACTOR	CHARGE
5/8"	1.0	\$39.00
3/4"	1.5	\$58.50
1"	2.5	\$97.50
1-1/2"	5.0	\$195.00
2"	8.0	\$312.00
3"	15.0	\$585.00
4"	25.0	\$975.00
6"	50.0	\$1,950.00
8"	80.0	\$3,120.00

The Base Charge is established to provide for the fixed expenses of owning and maintaining the water pollution system such as the physical plant, lift stations, pump stations, manholes, collection lines and piping. For customer billed on a monthly basis, the monthly fixed charged shall be one third of the values shown in the table above.

SEWER CONNECTION FEES

\$3,000* per EDU

*Houses and commercial/Industrial buildings built prior to January 1, 2014 and were not connected to the Town of Enfield Sanitary Sewer System as of January 1, 2014 will be charged pursuant to the WPCA policy on Sewer Connections.

OTHER FEES

Inspection Fee: \$100 per occurrence for any new construction, replacement, renovation or repair work during published business hours (\$300 per occurrence for nights, holidays, and weekends)

Sewer Meter Reading Charge: \$50 per reading (quarterly) of non-Water Company meters

Septage Disposal Permit: \$100 per year for each registered septage hauler

Septage Disposal Fees: \$60 per 1,000 gallons based on full truck capacity of residential septage
\$80 per 1,000 gallons based on full truck capacity of industrial/commercial septage
\$10 per discharge for sewage from recreational vehicles (campers)

FOG Inspection Fee: \$50 per inspection visit (no more than monthly)

Industrial Groundwater Remediation Discharge: \$250 per quarter