

Sewer Rate Committee Meeting Minutes  
6:00 pm, 2/10/10, @ Jay Town Office

In Attendance: Mark Holt-Sewer Supt., Thomas Goding-Selectmen & committee member, Joan vomEigen-committee member, Pearl Cook-committee member, Mike Houlihan, Robert Donald-committee member, Paul Gilbert-committee member, Ruth Cushman-Town Manager, Ronda Palmer-Town Clerk, Susan Weston-committee member, Warren Bryant-Selectmen & committee member, Michael Schaedler-committee member

- Agenda and Attendance Sheet attached
  
- Ruth and Mark gave a brief overview of the goals of the committee. The current equivalent sewer unit flat rate billing system was explained as was the proposed water consumption billing system. Ruth identified herself, Ronda & Mark as Town Staff members who were in attendance to offer guidance and information to the committee and that they were not voting members of the committee.
  
- Mark handed out the following information:
  - Rate information if Wright/Pierce's rates were to be implemented. It was explained that their numbers were not feasible and the Selectmen had already decided not to implement them. (copy attached)
  - Sewer Rate estimates based on revenue goals. This sheet compared the current cost of equivalent unit billing vs. water consumption billing for different revenue goals set by the selectmen. (copy attached)
  - An e-mail from Maine Rural Water Association explaining the statewide average sewer rate and the rate needed in order for the Town of Jay to qualify for grant money for future projects. (copy attached)
  - The recommended equivalent family unit allocation schedule that is used to determine current sewer fees. (copy attached)

- After much discussion on assessing sewer fees based on the current practice of using the equivalent unit system vs. going to the water consumption billing system for FY 10-11, the committee felt that it would be better to use the equivalent unit system for another year while the committee worked on preparing a water use billing system for possible implementation for FY 11-12. This would allow more time for public input and education.
- MMS Paul Gilbert/Rob Donald to keep the existing billing system for FY10-11 and for the committee to work towards implementation of a water consumption billing system for FY 11-12. Motion passed 5-3 vote.
- The committee discussed whether or not the Municipal buildings should be assessed sewer fees for FY 10-11. After much discussion, the consensus of the committee was that they should not be assessed sewer fees for FY 10-11.
- Ruth mentioned that the meeting had run over the 1 hour mark that was promised as the length of the meeting to the committee members. The committee decided to wrap-up the meeting at this time.
- Mark was asked to get a copy of the latest MRWA Sewer Rate Study to the committee members along with a copy of the current Livermore Falls Sewer Dept. billing schedule. Paul asked Mark to do a comparison of how the lower sewer rates over the past several years has offset the amount of grant money the town may have received.
- Next meeting scheduled for 6:00 pm, March 3, 2010 @ Jay Middle School Library.
- MMS Tom Goding/Warren Bryant to Adjourn @ 7:20pm. Passed

Minutes recorded by Mark L. Holt, Supt., Jay Sewer Dept.