

Sewer Rate Committee Meeting Minutes  
6:00pm, 3/23/2010, @ Jay Middle School Library

- In attendance: Town Staff; Mark Holt, Ruth Cushman & Ronda Palmer. Committee Members; Mike Schaedler, Pearl Cook, Joan vomEigen, Tom Goding, Paul Gilbert, Warren Bryant & Susan Weston. Members of the Public; Mike Houlihan.
  
- Note: The meeting's agenda and attendance sheet are attached.
  
- MMS by Sue Weston/Pearl Cook to accept the minutes of the 3/3/10 meeting. Motion passed unan.
  
- Mark Holt handed out information from an e-mail survey performed by Maine Rural Water Association at Mark's request. The survey had 13 responses concerning whether or not other municipalities charged their Town buildings and schools a sewer fee. 10 of the 13 respondents did charge both their Town and School buildings a sewer fee. 1 of the respondents had no sewer fees Town wide. 1 of the respondents does not charge either a sewer fee. 1 of the respondents billed their school but not their municipal offices. A copy of the survey's results are attached. Ruth stated that of the 200+ Towns statewide with sewer departments, the response rate seemed too low to give an accurate accounting of billing practices. She will poll municipalities using her Town Manager contact list and report back to the committee.
  
- The information on "The Effect Minimum Use Quantity Has on Various Sewer Users" dated 3/5/10 (attached) prepared by Mark Holt as requested by Paul Gilbert at the last committee meeting was discussed. After many discussions, questions, answers, scenarios & hypothetical situations, MMS by Sue Weston/Pearl Cook to set the annual minimum use @ 3,000 ft<sup>3</sup> with a base fee associated with the minimum use of \$250. More discussions, questions, answers, calculations, scenarios and hypothetical situations ensued. Sue Weston withdrew her motion and Pearl withdrew her second. Mark was asked about a tiered fee schedule based on water meter size. Mark reported that he had contacted the Liv. Fls. Water Dist. and they supplied him with various buildings water meter sizes from 5/8 inch to 2 inch's. Mark stated that there was no correlation between the size of the water meter and the number of units in a particular building and therefore the idea of charging a fee per cubic foot based on the size of the meter would not work as was previously thought. For example, one 6 unit apartment building had a 3/4 inch meter while another had a 1 inch meter. A duplex had a 5/8 inch meter and a single unit

house had a  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch meter. The committee decided that using water meter sizes to assess a per cubic foot usage rate was not going to work.

- Mark was asked by Ruth (*because Paul knew better* 😊) to perform additional calculations with minimum usage of 3,000 ft<sup>3</sup> and a base fee of \$200 and of \$250. Also, the committee would like to see the commercial and rental properties on Town sewer continue to pay sewer fees approximately equal to their current sewer fees. In the calculations dated 1/12/10 (attached) that were handed out at the 2/10/10 Sewer Rate Committee meeting, it was evident that some of the commercial and rental properties fees were going to drop significantly by going to a water usage fee system while some of the residential users fees were going to rise significantly. Furthermore, it was obvious that some entities were not paying their fair share for the quantities they were using. Mark was asked to prepare a fee system that would even out the "peaks and valleys" and present it to the committee at the next meeting.

- Next meeting scheduled for 6:00pm Tuesday, April 20, 2010 @ the Jay Town Office.

- MMS Tom Goding/Pearl Cook to adjourn @ 7:05pm. Motion passed unan.

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