

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the
Suffield Water Pollution Control Authority & Treatment Facility
May 16, 2023

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Janet Davis, Chairman
Frank Bauchiero
Jeff Davis
Roger Ives
Chris Rago

MEMBERS

ABSENT:

Daniel Holmes
John Murphy

ALSO PRESENT:

Jamie Kreller, Superintendent
Julie Nigro, Business Administrator

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Janet Davis called the Special Meeting for May 16, 2023 to order at 7:53 p.m.

2. **CITIZEN INPUT:** None

3. **SET 2023/2024 SEWER USE RATES & APPROVE 2023/2024 BUDGET:**

- Proposed increase in Residential rate (\$370 to \$380 per year)
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to adopt the Residential sewer fee for fiscal 2023/2024 at \$380 per EDU, per year.
 - Roger Ives seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
- Value of an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) 46,000 gal/yr
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to adopt the Value of an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) per 46,000 gal/yr at \$380 for fiscal 2023/2024
 - Roger Ives seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
- Kent Farms Community Sewage System – proposed increase (\$370 to \$380 per year)
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to adopt the Kent Farms Community Sewage System rate of \$380 for fiscal 2023/2024
 - Roger Ives seconded the motion; the motion was opposed by all and therefore denied
- Jeff Davis motioned to propose a new increase from \$370 to \$440 for the Kent Farms Community Sewage System for fiscal 2023/2024, with a new Public Hearing to be held on May 30, 2023 at 7pm
- Frank Bauchiero seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
- Commercial Sewer Use Rate per 1,000 gallons in excess of 46,000 gallons (1 EDU) proposed increase (\$8.89 to \$9.01)
 - Frank Bauchiero motioned to adopt the Commercial Sewer Use Rate of \$9.01 per 1,000 gallons in excess of 46,000 gallons (1 EDU) for fiscal 2023/2024
 - Roger Ives seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously
- Jane Davis stated the 2023/2024 budget would also be approved at the May 30, 2023 Meeting. Additionally, she suggested changing the salary increase in the proposed 23/24 budget from 3% to the union's rate of 2.25%. Julie Nigro stated the union members have a slightly better health insurance benefit, with more money contributed toward their HSA per year. Jamie Kreller stated their personal time is contracted, whereas the administrative staff

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need approval for personal time. Janet Davis explained the WPCA has a lot of expenses this year, primarily because most capital repairs were deferred for many years. Due to inflation, expenses have also increased this year, especially the MDC sludge charge increase of 14%. Frank Bauchiero stated that the Union staff is different from the Admin staff, in that, the Union staff get paid for emergency work. Frank Bauchiero asked what is the current average percent increase per capita. It was discussed that some companies are giving 3%. Jamie Kreller stated the administrative staff has received 35% toward their deductible for years (since 2011), while the Union staff has had a more substantial contribution toward their deductibles, with 45% in 2021. Julie Nigro checked the employee percentage rate of cost of insurance, and noted the union and admin are currently the same (16% employee contribution), however the Union receives 40% toward their deductible. Jamie Kreller went on to review the union contract with the following contributions:

- 1st yr (7/1/2021) Employee pays 12% premium share & WPCA pays 45% of the deductible
- 2nd yr (7/1/2022) Employee pays 16% premium share & WPCA pays 40% of the deductible
- 3rd yr (7/1/2023) Employee pays 17% premium share & WPCA pays 40% of the deductible
- 4th yr (7/1/2024) Employee pays 18% premium share & WPCA pays 35% of the deductible

The Commission discussed that since the Union and Admin pay the same percent toward the insurance premium, matching the salary increase percent to the Union's.

- Janet Davis motioned to match the administrative staff payroll increase in the budget to the Union percentage increase in their contract of 2.25%
- Jeff Davis seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

ADJOURNMENT:

- Jeff Davis motioned to adjourn the Special Meeting of May 16, 2023 at 8:26 pm
- Frank Bauchiero seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously

Respectfully submitted,



Julie M. Nigro
Business Administrator