

TOWN OF CASTLETON
SEWER COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Monday, July 10, 2023 6:30 p.m.
Fire Department Community Room

Zoom Meeting Recording Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/kqWDCnEAFaFYa3mc-8eNN3x3GmPdkZDhOrlan4SD2HjvRm3Imq7ebUryjzXfaM.gW77boYEG1H1fDse>

ATTENDING: Mike Jones, Town Manager, James Leamy, Chair, Richard Combs, Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian, Mary Lee Harris, Heath Goyette, Tom Kearns, Allison Harvey, Recording Secretary

Attending Via Zoom: Melanie Combs

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Jim Leamy at 6:35 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

J. Mark made a motion to approve the agenda. R. Combs seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 6/12/23

R. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of 6/12/23 as presented. J. Mark seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

FY23-24 SEWER BUDGET DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL

M. Jones presented budget proposal and explained the equivalent units (cost per users). This budget last year was \$726,027, this proposal for the upcoming year is \$750,046 with \$120,000 included in reserve. The equivalent units cost (cost per user) is currently \$519.01 and would need to increase to \$539.00. Most of the budget increase is capital reserve, payroll and other minor increases. J. Mark questioned sludge prices. M. Jones stated it accounts for the increase in hauling and there was more hauled last year than normal because of the plant upgrade. **R. Combs made a motion to approve the proposed sewer budget for fiscal year ending June 20, 2024 in the amount of \$750,246. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.**

SET ANNUAL SEWER CHARGE (Per Unit)

R. Combs made a motion to approve the sewer rate for the upcoming and current fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 at \$539.00 per equivalent unit. ML Harris seconded. All voted in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

PRESENTATION OF SEWER EXPANSION ESTIMATE (Depot Terrace/Crystal Heights/Creek Road/Preston Lane)

M. Jones stated in their packets they got a memo from Wayne Elliott on the four expansion projects. They were done from a field study and provides an overview of the system itself and the general numbers. The next step for the Board of Selectmen is to consider choosing options desired as they would still need to hire an engineer to design what they choose for projects. J. Mark questioned the sharing of costs of the upgrades and the use of ARPA funds. M. Jones stated there are internal funds and the cost share should be considered. There are \$1.3 million in the sewer reserve, as well as the \$1.06 million in ARPA funds. J. Mark asked if he saw that there are SRF loans also available for Preston Lane. M. Jones stated yes there are that could be applied for. J. Mark also asked about residents on the proposed roads and how many express interest to connect to Town sewer. M. Jones stated there are some on each one, Preston Lane has one potential, but not any others. ML Harris asked about Creek Road, if the sewer line would stop at Woodard's. M. Jones yes it would most likely stop at Woodard's, and there are two or four residences before Woodard's and he is aware that the State has no interest in connection for the

Conservation Camp. R. Combs questioned a failed system on Crystal Heights. Discussion held on the timeline of spending ARPA funds. J. Mark stated he would support applying for a grant at Crystal Heights and also the use of ARPA funds. M. Jones stated if they choose to do any of them, he will need to contact an engineer to design and figure out what grants are available and could be applied for and would be the next step. R. Combs suggested Brown's Auto be contacted now that they have numbers and see if they are in favor at the cost presented. R. Combs questioned how many units Brown's would be charged for and what percentage of the residence of the Town are served by the sewer. He feels some portion of the ARPA funds should be used on something that serves all taxpayers, not just ones that would be using the sewer.

SEWER BOARD COMMENTS AND/OR CONCERNS

None at this time.

6:55 pm-ADJOURN

R. Combs made a motion to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. J. Mark seconded. All were in favor. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted

Allison Harvey
Recording Secretary

FINAL