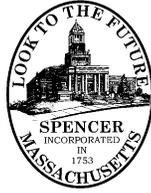


TOWN OF SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE
SEWER COMMISSION

FRANCIS X. WHITE, CHAIRMAN
LAWRENCE H. DUFAULT, CLERK
FRANCIS X. WHITE, JR., MEMBER

JAMES T. LAPLANTE, JR., SUPERINTENDENT



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Minutes of Public Hearing Meeting held February 8, 2024

Meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners held at the Memorial Town Hall (McCourt Social Hall),
157 Main St., Spencer, MA.

Members present: Francis "Frank" White
Lawrence "Larry" Dufault
Francis X. White, Jr

Sewer staff present: James Laplante, Jr., Supt.
Debra Graves, Sr. Cler

Meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

(A Public Hearing handout is on file at the Utilities & Facilities Office)

Discuss Sewer Rates Increase:

- Hand out proposed Sewer Rates. The new upgrade is driven by the EPA, DEP permit. but that has been placed on hold. Sewer needs to start paying on the SRF loan in July of FY25. Sewer did get some relief from the ARPA fund and debt forgiveness for the project. Rates will be reevaluated each year to meet appropriation for the Debt, Operations, and Infrastructure improvements. These increases are necessary to pay for operations, maintenance, and upgrades to the sewer collections system. Sewer is an Enterprise Funds paid by sewer users only. Also, traditionally it is more expensive to run the Sewer plant than Water due to higher energy, chemical, mechanical processes. The Sewer Commissioners repealed the Connections Moratorium to increase revenues and lessen the impact of rate increases. A congressional grant of \$952,000 for I/I (Inflow & Infiltration) work was to be available in February but has since been put on hold.

Resident questions and answers:

- Total debt service 1.6 million for FY2025 budget. This is why there is a bigger increase for the fiscal year 2025. Residents suggest helping the people on the system to lower costs by giving monies that can be directed to the Sewer Dept. to help the users. It's up to the Sewer Commissioners to bring this up to the BOS. Sewer Commissioners do plan to go up on Septage rates which does take some of the burden off the users.

Larry made a motion to accept rate schedule as proposed rates on the consumer breakdown sewer user fee by 0-1000 15%, 1001-3000 25%, 3001-5000 25%, 5001-8000 30%, 8001 and beyond 30% for FY2025. Frank second the motion, all in favor, Francis Jr. with a roll call vote: Francis Jr.-yes, Frank-yes, Larry-yes.

Sewer Usage (per quarter)		FY 2024 Rates	Sewer Usage (per quarter)		FY 2025 Rates
Cubic-feet per quarter		April 1, 2023	Cubic-feet per quarter		April 1, 2024
0 to 1,500-cubic feet	Flat Rate	\$200.48	0 to 1,000-cubic feet	Flat Rate	\$230.55
			1001-cubic feet to	3,000-cubic feet	\$8.90/100CF
1,500-cubic feet to	5,000-cubic feet	\$13.45/100CF	3,001-cubic feet to	5,000-cubic feet	\$16.81/100CF
5,000-cubic feet to	8,000-cubic feet	\$14.68/100CF	5,001-cubic feet to	8,000-cubic feet	\$19.08/100CF
8,000-cubic feet	And beyond	\$16.15/100CF	8,001-cubic feet	And beyond	\$21.00/100CF

Residential sewer fees for property deriving its main supply of potable water from a source other than “Municipal Water Supply” will be charged \$240.58 for a single bedroom and \$65.40 for each additional bedroom per quarter.

Public Meeting adjourned at 7:37pm motion by Francis Jr, Second by Frank, in favor Larry.

The Board voted and approved minutes on 2/22/2024

Respectfully Submitted,
Debra Graves