

Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting
February 12, 2018
7:00 p.m.

The Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners will meet Monday, February 12, 2018 immediately following the Select Board Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at the Brandon Town Hall located at 1 Conant Square expecting to consider the items noted on this agenda. Agendas shall be posted on the community bulletin board located at the Town Office at 49 Center Street and on the community bulletin board located between Dave's Grocery and the Forest Dale Post Office. The Select Board reserves the right to add additional items, if necessary, at the beginning of the meeting.

- 1) Call to Order
 - a) Agenda Adoption

- 2) Approval of Minutes
 - a) Sewer Commissioners Minutes – December 11, 2017

- 3) Sandor Concern

- 4) Adjournment

**Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting
December 11, 2017**

NOTE: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent board meeting.

In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Doug Bailey, Brian Coolidge, Devon Fuller, Tracy Wyman

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Arlen Bloodworth, Chris Kilmer, Fred Colburn, Mike Denis, Constance Pell, John Capen

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:25PM by Seth Hopkins - Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Devon Fuller to adopt the agenda as presented. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. Consent Agenda

a) Minutes of Board of Sewer Commissioners of November 27, 2017

Motion by Devon Fuller/Brian Coolidge to approve the minutes of the November 27, 2017 Board of Sewer Commissioners meeting. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Consider Publishing the Wastewater Budget in the Town Report

Dave Atherton advised there have been requests in the past at the town meetings to include the wastewater budget in the town report. Information from the Town Treasurer was provided to the Select Board regarding information on the wastewater budget for the town report. Mr. Atherton noted there is a one-page report that could be inserted in the town report that is similar to the operating budget.

Motion by Doug Bailey/Tracy Wyman to authorize the Town Treasurer to include the publishing of the wastewater budget in the town report in the format that she deems best. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dave Atherton stated the Wastewater Department does not have a capital fund to draw from when repairs are needed. There is a positive cash flow this year and Mr. Atherton recommended establishing a wastewater capital fund for future repairs or replacement of the current system that is 50 years old. Seth Hopkins advised there should be a policy drafted, similar to the general fund. Mr. Atherton reported the department has been able to reduce daily operating costs and are seeing the savings. He also noted there has been discussion of paying the debt down. Doug

Bailey stated Daryl Burlett had been discussing the possibility of setting aside funds for major breakdowns or improvements. With the sizeable carryover, Mr. Bailey suggested putting aside funds and paying off some of the bond debt, with input from Mr. Burlett. Mr. Atherton stated the Town is also looking at other ways to treat the water that could be cost-effective. Seth Hopkins requested the Town Manager, Sue Gage and Daryl Burlett develop a plan regarding the capital needs for the Select Board's consideration.

4. Adjournment

Motion by Doug Bailey/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Board of Sewer Commissioners' meeting at 7:31PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary

David Atherton

From: Andrea Sandor <sandor777@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 23, 2018 1:55 PM
To: David Atherton
Subject: Brandon: Sewer Commission Question for Tonight's Meeting

David:

Regarding the Nov 2017 response from the Sewer Commission - I don't understand the answer - see unapproved minutes below.

It doesn't address my question of the basis of the charging methodology i.e. if the methodology is wrong - it doesn't matter if it's applied consistently. Could the commission please clarify tonight:

QUESTION:

1. How was charging an apt as if it was a stand-alone house evaluated as a fair and proportional cost allocation?
 - 1a. Was it based on State and Federal regulations: 40 CFR ss 35.935-13 and 10 V.S.A. Chapter 79 alone?
 - 1b. Was it based on another rule or calculation - if so can this be referenced?
 - 1c. Are the 3 sections I list below - the only Brandon Sewer sections that pertain to the apartment charging rule - or am I missing a section?

I believe there is a big problem - also affecting my water bill all these years - since both use the same methodology.

Could you raise the specific questions above at the meeting tonight? I am working separately to provide additional information to the Sewer Commission

Andrea

Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting

November 27, 2017

3. Sandor Concern

Dave Atherton reported there has been a concern received from the property owner of 27, 29 and 31 Church Street indicating she is being inaccurately charged for the sewer fees for her rental properties. Email conversations were provided and Mr. Atherton noted the Town could not see there is anything wrong with the bills in reviewing the fees. The property owner wanted this item brought before the Board of Sewer Commissioners. Mr. Atherton advised there were some comparisons provided, however, most were single-family and not multi-family dwellings. Seth Hopkins stated the contention is that the property owner has one water meter, but is charged six base fees. Mr. Hopkins stated there would be six rental fees charged because it is a per unit charge that was established 10 years ago and is the same fee structure throughout the Town. Devon Fuller agreed that this is the policy and is enforced the same for all properties. Mr. Atherton advised that the owner has been sent information about the ordinance. Mr. Hopkins acknowledged that the Sewer Commissioners considered the request and for the reasons stated above, the policy is being enforced equitably and properly, and there will be no action taken.

Brandon Sewer Use Ordinances: (source of apt base charges?)

ARTICLE XI . Rates and Responsibility of Costs

Section 3 . The Sewer Authority shall establish the user charge system in accordance with appropriate Federal and State rules and regulations pertaining to the costs associated to the use of the sewer by domestic and commercial users.

Section 4 . The Sewer Authority shall, in establishing the rates referred to in Sections 1 and 2 above, make specific reference to the sewer use rate structure in force at the time of any connection. The sewer use rate structure shall incorporate the requirements of 40 CFR ss 35.935-13 and 10 V.S.A. Chapter 79.

Section 5 . Rates shall be established by the Board of Sewer Commissioners and may be changed from time to time as required.[7]