

Brandon Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting July 12, 2021

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

Board Members In Attendance: Seth Hopkins, Tim Guiles, Tracy Wyman, Brian Coolidge, Michael Markowski

Others In Attendance: Dave Atherton, Bill Moore

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:54PM by Seth Hopkins – Chair.

a. Agenda Adoption

Motion by Tracy Wyman/Brian Coolidge to adopt the agenda. **The motion passed unanimously.**

2. FY2022 Sewer Rate Discussion

Dave Atherton reported Seth Hopkins, Sue Gage and he met with Ashley Lutz from the Bond Bank for her insight on where the Town is for wastewater and how the bond will work. He noted it was a learning experience and a very informative meeting. Seth Hopkins stated her main point was what COVID revealed is when the town had an unexpected usage, our revenue dropped because the weight of the bills is 70% of usage and 30% flat fee. By using Sue's numbers, the expenses are exactly the opposite. The Town has a flat rate fee and a per gallon fee, and Ms. Lutz's recommendation is to move to a rebalancing so that the flow through fee will be lessened. Ms. Lutz suggested adopting a 4-year plan to get to the desired 70/30. This would show people that the Sewer Commission has been thoughtful and it would be sustainable and provide some predictability. The increases over the four years would result in a 12% increase this year, 23% next year, then 7% and 3%. If one is paying \$136.00 now, they would be paying \$206.00 by the end of the four years. Tim Guiles stated during the last discussion it was unclear if there would be additional charges. It was noted that all of the numbers include the new sewer project and there would not be new bills and there are no hidden costs. Mr. Atherton reported the Town is getting some grant forgiveness on the bond. It is known what the fixed costs are and the Town needs to be sure that we are taking care of those. This has never been done for this wastewater plant and assuring that the Town can fund it is a good approach. The engineering and contractors' line has been zeroed out and the bond agreement has certain requirements that indicate a short lived asset reserve is required that would replace things that could be less than the life expectancy of the bond. Mr. Atherton advised there are many moving parts and we could get a lot of slip lining done by using the asset reserve. Mr. Atherton stated this shows that the Town is taking this seriously that we have infrastructure that needs to keep running for a long time. Mr. Hopkins suggested due to the change in direction of the program that a press release be

done and possibly an insert with the billings. Mr. Atherton advised there has been a flat sewer rate for 7 years, which was probably not a good idea. Ashley Lutz stated using the short lived asset reserve for slip lining would be a good use as slip lining the entire system will have many benefits. Mr. Atherton explained that slip lining would provide new line through the pipes that seals the inside of the pipe. Mike Markowski stated it is not a permanent fix and is like an overlay of a road. Mr. Atherton stated infiltration is what causes many of the issues.

Motion by Tim Guiles/Tracy Wyman to accept the new fee structure to cover budget years FY22 through FY26. **The motion passed unanimously.**

3. Adjournment

Motion by Brian Coolidge/Tracy Wyman to adjourn the Board of Sewer Commissioners' meeting at 8:12PM. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

Charlene Bryant
Recording Secretary