

REGULAR MEETING

**WATERTOWN FIRE DISTRICT
DISTRICT COMMISSION**

DATE: August 8, 2022
TIME: 7:00 P.M.
PLACE: District Office
24 DeForest Street
Watertown, CT 06795

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Steve Ouellette, Chairman | Present |
| James Lehner | Present |
| Anthony Martone | Absent |
| Robert Yerger | Present |
| Pedro Soares | Absent |
| Carl Minicucci, Alternate | Absent |
| Mark Crane, Alternate | Absent |
| Josh Makarewicz, Alternate | Absent |

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Present were Commissioners Ouellette, Lehner, and Yerger. Commissioners Martone and Soares and Alternate Commissioners Minicucci, Makarewicz and Crane were absent.

ALSO PRESENT:

Fire District Superintendent Michael Tanuis and Watertown Fire District Employees Vincent Tanuis, Ashley Monte, and Heather Edwards. Also in attendance were Joanna Price of 185 Hamilton Avenue and Guy Capuano of 174-176 Echo Lake Road.

3. Public Commentary

Joanna Price of 185 Hamilton Avenue asked the Board to review any late fees or administrative fees assessed on the account. She was the mortgage holder for the previous owner and the previous owner defaulted on the mortgage payments. Joanna has taken possession of the property again and requested the late fees and administrative fees be removed from the account.

Guy Capuano of 174-176 Echo Lake Road attended the meeting to request a reduction in his sewer bill. He explained that he had multiple leaks in the pipes in the crawl space during the December 2021 to April 2022 timeframe. He has since repaired the leaks.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4A – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Fee Adjustment for 185 Hamilton Avenue

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. Robert Yerger and seconded by Mr. James Lehner to add Agenda Item #4B – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 174-176 Echo Lake Road

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to close public commentary.

Motion passes unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve the minutes from the Monday, July 11, 2022 Regular Meeting as presented.

Motion passes unanimously.

4A. Discussion and possible approval of fee adjustment for 185 Hamilton Avenue

After a brief discussion it was decided that the Watertown Fire District would not adjust the bill for 185 Hamilton Avenue.

4B. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 174-176 Echo Lake Road

The Board discussed and reviewed Guy's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$621.33 a month to \$55.42 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. Robert Yerger and seconded by Mr. James Lehner to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 174-176 Echo Lake Road from \$621.33 a month to \$55.42 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4C – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 319 Thomaston Road, Unit 66

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4D – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 190 Cutler Street

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda

Item #4E – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 62 Warwick Road

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4F – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 104 Orchard Lane

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4G – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 76 High Street

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4H – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 269-271 Porter Street

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4I – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 70 Cherry Avenue

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4J – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 52

Academy Hill Road

Motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to add Agenda Item #4K – Discussion and Possible Approval of a Sewer Fee Adjustment for 317 Whispering Hill Road

Motion passes unanimously.

4C. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 319 Thomaston Road Unit 66

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Holly McGowan of 319 Thomaston Road Unit 66. Holly had her son staying with her during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Holly's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$62.53 to \$54.87 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 319 Thomaston Road Unit 66 from \$62.53 to \$54.87 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4D. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 190 Cutler Street

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Steven Bartholomew of 190 Cutler Street. Steven had a toilet leaking during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Steven's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$119.37 to \$75.33 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. Robert Yerger and seconded by Mr. James Lehner to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 190 Cutler Street from \$119.37 a month to

\$75.33 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4E. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 62 Warwick Road

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Brian Plowman of 62 Warwick Road. Watertown Fire District installed a new transmitter wire during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Brian's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee to from \$847.36 a month to \$269.50 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 62 Warwick Road from \$847.36 a month to \$269.50 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4F. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 104 Orchard Lane

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Jacob Zitmay of 104 Orchard Lane. Jacob's hot water tank was leaking during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Jacob's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee pending an inspection of sump pump from \$95.99 a month to \$27.12 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment pending an inspection of sump pump for 104 Orchard Lane from \$95.99 a month to \$27.12 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4G. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 76 High Street

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Martin Duda of 76 High Street. Martin had a pipe burst in his garage during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Martin's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$47.90 a month to \$35.63 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 76 High Street from \$47.90 a month to \$35.63 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4H. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 269-271 Porter Street

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Scott Geary of 269-271 Porter Street. Scott had a shower leaking during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Scott's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$230.99 a month to \$123.34 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. Robert Yerger and seconded by Mr. James Lehner to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 269-271 Porter Street from \$230.99 a month to \$123.34 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4I. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 70 Cherry Avenue

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Sonya Syleecha Brown Beckford of 70 Cherry Avenue. Sonya closed on the property June 30, 2022. The sewer fee was based on the previous owner's consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Sonya's request and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$226.15 a month to \$36.65 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a

sewer fee adjustment for 70 Cherry Avenue from \$226.15 a month to \$36.65 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4J. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 52 Academy Hill Road

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Andrew Ezrin of 52 Academy Hill Road. Andrew had a pipe burst in the basement during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Andrew's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$775.01 a month to \$18.93 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 52 Academy Hill Road from \$775.01 a month to \$18.93 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

4K. Discussion and possible approval of sewer fee adjustment for 317 Whispering Hill Road

Assistant Superintendent Vincent Tanuis spoke on behalf of Roberta Kuegler of 317 Whispering Hill Road. Roberta had a toilet leaking during the winter quarter of 2022 causing the sewer average to increase beyond the normal consumption. The Board discussed and reviewed Roberta's usage and agreed to adjust the sewer fee from \$93.93 a month to \$65.42 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to approve a sewer fee adjustment for 317 Whispering Hill Road from \$93.93 a month to \$65.42 a month beginning with the 7/25/22 bill.

Motion passes unanimously.

5. Superintendent's Report

Mr Tanuis reported:

- No truck available to order until October
- Water Main Replacement should be done by next week

6. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report.

7. Adjournment

MOTION: By Mr. James Lehner and seconded by Mr. Robert Yerger to adjourn the Regular Meeting of Monday, August 8, 2022 at 8:07 p.m.

Motion passes unanimously.

Steve Ouellette, Chairman