



Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

**Town of Groton Sewer Department**

173 Main Street  
Groton MA 01450

**Date:** March 23rd, 2022

**Time:** 2:30PM

**Members Virtually Present:** Chair/James Gmeiner  
Vice Chair/Thomas Orcutt  
Clerk/Michael Bouchard

**Others Virtually Present:** Ann Livezey, Lauren Crory & Judy Anderson

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The Meeting was called to order by James Gmeiner at 2:30 P.M.

**Continued Rate Hearing to Consider Amending the wastewater rates and fees for the Center Sewer District and Four Corners Sewer District was opened.**

**Four Corners Sewer District:**

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that we have \$177K in reserves for the Four Corners District. She said the total rate income is \$28,613.00 and the amount needed for the rates to cover expenses is \$37,758.00, which is a difference of \$8,965.00. She said she calculated \$1,500.00 for the new Moulton homes and that brought the number to \$7,465.00. Mr. Gmeiner said the target number we need to be at is \$7,500.00 when looking at the spreadsheets with the rate increase. Mr. Gmeiner said if we do 25% Tier 1 and 15% Tiers 2,3,4 that would get us too \$6,758.80. Mr. Bouchard asked if we could expect any connection fees and Mr. Orcutt replied maybe 1-2 for Oriole Drive.

**Center Sewer District:**

Ms. Crory said she compared the Pepperell Flow Gallons to what was billed out to get an estimate on I&I. In FY19 it was 15%, FY20 was 4% and FY21 14%.

Mr. Bouchard asked when looking at the treatment analysis page he asked about the 4% in FY20 and does that tell us its related to usage and Mr. Gmeiner said no it means it was a dry winter/spring. Mr. Bouchard asked if I&I was related to environment and not users and Mr. Gmeiner said "yes". He said there are two reasons high ground water coming up and leaking at joint or connections to mains and inflow that pours over and comes down manholes.

Ms. Crory told the BOSC that the goal we need to reach is \$50k. Ms. Crory said at last meeting we looked at 7% across all tiers that would get us \$47,920.02 and 5% Tier 1 and 10% on others would get us \$56,575.66. Mr. Bouchard asked what if we did 8% across and Ms. Crory said that would get us to \$54K. Mr. Gmeiner asked what the customer effect would be and Ms. Crory said if 5% mostly tier one family

verse 7% increase would be a \$15.00 difference for the year. Mr. Bouchard said the goal is \$50K, he feels the 8% or the 5% Tier 1 and 10% all other tiers.

Ms. Crory told the BOSCO that the Capital Charge would need to be increased to cover the new Pepperell debt of \$71K and this would be for at least 3-years. The current fee is \$15.00/per qtr. and generates \$38,640.00. if we were to bump it up to \$27.00 that would bring us to \$69,5520.00 and if we did \$27.50 that would get us \$70,867.50. Mr. Orcutt also had Ms. Crory run the capital charges based on the following:

Residential fee \$22/qtr.  
Small Commercial \$30.00/qtr.  
Large Commercial \$47.00/qtr.

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Residential Fee	Small Commercial	Large Users
Residential accounts Faculty Housing	Commercial accounts using less than 15 units in the past year	Commercial accounts using more than 15 units per quarter in the past year School Buildings Dorms Multi-Unit Properties with one water meter

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to close the public hearing at 3:15, Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

The Following Motions were made:

**Center Sewer District:**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to accept the tiered capital charge option for the Center Sewer District as follows: \$22.00/qtr. Residential, \$30.00/qtr. Small Commercial and \$47.00/qtr. Large Commercial effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and this is based on a similar tiered system for the water users. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjust the sewer rates for the Center Sewer District as follows: Tier 1 5%, Tier 2,3 & 4 10% effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to increase the connection fee for the Center Sewer District to \$7,500.00 per ERU effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to leave all other fees unchanged for the Center Sewer District. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Four Corners Sewer District:**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjust the sewer rates for the Four Corners Sewer District as follows: Tier 1 25%, Tier 2 & 3 15% and add a Tier 4 (46+ units) \$21.44/per unit effective April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Mr. Orcutt made a motion to leave all other fees unchanged for the Four Corners Sewer District. Mr. Bouchard seconded and the motion passed unanimously. Roll Call: Gmeiner-Aye, Orcutt-Aye and Bouchard-Aye**

**Review of ARPA Funds**

Mr. Orcutt said he has reached out to Mr. Rafferty to see if they are on the bid list. Mr. Orcutt said there have been new regulations that must be followed when using ARPA Funds.

There are Federal procurement thresholds and any bid over \$250K and it would need to go out to bid or an RFP is required and at least 2-bidders must submit proposals. Mr. Gmeiner asked Mr. Orcutt to speak with Mr. Haddad regarding these new regulations.

**Other Business: Bills Minutes Etc.**

**Next Meeting** – March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**BILLS SIGNED** – No bills signed

**MINUTES:** - February 2<sup>nd</sup> & February 16<sup>th</sup> as amended

**ADJOURN** – *Mr. Orcutt made a motion to adjourn at 3:50 PM Mr. Bouchard seconded the motion. Roll Call Gmeiner –Aye, Orcutt- Aye and Bouchard-Aye*

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Livezey  
Water & Sewer Assistant