

Public Meeting  
Kingston Intermediate School  
July 18, 2006

The purpose of the meeting tonight was to review new Sewer Rates and Charges planned for adoption by the Board of Sewer Commissioners. The following is a review of some of the questions that were answered by Elaine Fiore.

Q- Some people have gardens and water their grass. We feel like we are being penalized for having a garden.

A- The Town software cannot accommodate charging anything other than 100% of water consumed. The software cannot charge a fraction of a percentage point either. The Water Dept. has said they will not install separate meters for outside watering.

Q- The flat rate charge was less for us.

A- Some people have been paying \$684.00 and their bills will be far less billing by consumption. They have been overpaying for years. The Water Department has staggered billing periods so that the summer months are not billed all in 1 quarter.

Q- How much are we paying now?

A- The flat rate is \$171.00 per quarter or \$684.00 per year.

Q- Will seasonal customers pay the \$25.00 service fee per quarter?

A- If the water meter is shut off the service fee can be prorated.

Q- Why not leave the flat rate in effect until Phase 2 is done?

A- 58% of the customers' user fees are going to go down converting to consumption based billing. Once Phase 2 connects the septage revenue will be going away. The sewer customers have to be given some relief because many have been paying far more than their share of the operating costs.

Q- Will the rates change?

A- The user rates will be offset by septage revenue as long as possible. It is possible that with Phase 2 connected it could go down but we will not know for a while.

Q- Is anyone considering pump stations for Phase 1 customers that have to use grinder pumps?

A- No. Mr. Vandal added that it is not economical to put pump stations in these areas.

Q- Most of our water use is for sprinklers. Should we have 2 meters?

A- The Water Department has said they will not consider meters for outside watering, but if residents learn otherwise they should notify the Sewer Commission. Mr. Vandal added that the Water Department has stated that installation of meters for outside watering would require them to have someone read these meters manually.

Q- Could someone dig a well for watering?

A- Yes, if it is permitted. This could be an expensive option.

Q- Is there any meter that could be put on the sewer pipe?

A- The sewer pipe is never filled. To meter sewer flow the whole pipe would have to be filled all the time. Sewer flow by gravity is never filled so a magnetic meter will not work.

Q- Does the Water Department have the final say on multiple meters?

A- Yes. If they say no then the resident could consult with the selectmen.

Q- The meeting was scheduled to approve the rates. Does that mean there will be a vote?

A- The meeting was to present and explain the rates. The rates will be reviewed by the Board and published in the paper.

Q- The developer of the 750 condos should be required to build their own treatment plant.

A- 230,000 gallons per day has been estimated for the Thorndike development. Phase 2 will bring the current plant to 375,000 gallons per day. A plant expansion would require 1 more operator but there would be no more office staff needed.

Q- My sewer bill is going up almost \$5000.00 for my business. Out of 1000 customers there should be a base cost to every customer. Should I be subsidizing a summer resident at the expense of the big users like me? MWRA uses steps as a basis. Couldn't this be phased into use? Divide the fixed costs by the number of customers.

A- When Phase 2 comes online the rate may decrease. The Sewer Commission decided that dividing the fixed costs by the number of customers was unfair.

Q- 12% of the customers are going to be paying more of the operating costs.

A- True. Those customers will generate the most wastewater requiring treatment. The fair way is to charge you for the amount of wastewater you generate.

Q- My water bill was \$29.00 and I have been paying \$684.00 for many years. I have been subsidizing the big users.

A- We have tried to come up with a system that is fair to the majority of the users. 1000 letters were sent out to current customers, but only 25 people are in attendance. This may indicate that people are satisfied with the revision of the billing system.

Q- People don't show up because they feel they can't do anything about it.

A- A vote will be taken on August 1, 2006. We are doing what we feel is best for the majority of the people.

Q- Very few people are paying on the high side. There are probably very few paying on the low side as well. The people in the middle will be carrying the load.

A- When Phase 2 is completed then the rates will be reviewed again.

Q- From resident - How many gallons per year does your business use?

A- 500,000 gallons

Comment – Should someone using 500,000 gallons annually pay the same as 1 person?

After this question and answer period the information session was concluded.

Suzanne Richards  
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