

**TOWN OF EAST HAMPTON
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY
PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 3, 2019**

APPROVED MINUTES

The Public Hearing of the Town of East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority was held at the Colchester - East Hampton Wastewater Treatment Plant Meeting Room on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 6:30 P.M.

Present: Mark Barmasse, Kerry Comisky, Dave Terry, Peter Villa and Anthony DeSimone

Not Present: John Suprono and Mike Filanda

Other Attendee(s) Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator & Ben Gilmore, Chief Water Plant Operator

1. Call to Order

Chairman Barmasse called the hearing to order at 6:32 p.m.

Public Comment Re: 2019/2020 Sewer Use Rates

Chairman Barmasse opened the Public Comment portion of the meeting by reading the Notice of Public Hearing aloud (copy made part of these minutes):

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
Water Pollution Control Authority
Town of East Hampton
September 3, 2019

The Town of East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority does hereby establish a Public Hearing in accordance with Chapter 103, Section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes at 6:30 P.M. on September 3, 2019 at the Town of Colchester – Town of East Hampton Wastewater Treatment Plant, 20 Gildersleeve Drive, East Hampton Connecticut. The purpose of the hearing is to allow property owners to which charges will be levied for use of the sewer system to be heard regarding the proposed annual sewer use rates effective on October 1, 2019. A copy of the charges is on file in the Town Clerk’s office and is available for inspection by the public.

Effective October 1, 2019 the Water Pollution Control Authority of the Town of East Hampton does hereby establish the gravity sewer rates at \$455.00 per EDU unit and an additional \$150.00 for properties with grinder pumps maintained by the WPCA.

The sewer connection fee remains the same for a residential, single family home at \$2500.00 “unless otherwise established” that are connecting to the existing wastewater system “unless otherwise established”. Furthermore, all other connectors will pay a multiple of the residential connection fee equivalent to their assessed Equivalent development unit (EDU) at the time of connection. All rates are to be effective October 1, 2019.

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Affected property owners, electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of East Hampton, Connecticut, are invited to attend and participate in such public hearing.

Dated at East Hampton, Connecticut, this 8th day of August 2019.

East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority

By:

Scott Clayton, Public Utilities Administrator

2. Public Comment 2019/20 Sewer Use Rate / Commercial connection charges

William Matterazzo, 10 Smith St. asked about the yearly 3% increases in the past 3 years that's now going to a 25% increase. And why all at once?

Mr. Barmasse explained that the rationale behind the increase is to raise capital is for equipment and system repairs. In addition to Force Main replacements and pump station repairs for a 35yr old system that is at its life expectancy.

Elizabeth Treadway, 23 Laurel Ridge requested the Board to introduce themselves.

Mark Barmasse Chairman of WPCA, Peter Villa, Kerry Comisky, Dave Terry and Anthony DeSimone

Charmian Sundell, 14 South Main St. expressed concern about a flat fee rate increase all at once and the effect it could have on the seniors.

Kyle Dostaler, 56 William Dr. asked if the \$90.00 increase is going to be for just 1 year for capital improvement/planning or for perpetuity and is all \$90.00 going specifically for capital improvements?

This is necessary increase to fund capital improvement for the next 5-8 years. Sewer bills historically have been portioned to fund operations and improvements.

John Tuttle, 71 Viola Dr. questioned why with additional new users from other towns the cost doesn't decrease or at least keep cost the same? *The approx. addition of 1000 new users are from other towns and have no effect on the repairs for East Hampton WPCA. This is a system replacement cost for capital items for an aging system and the Board feels that certain repairs and replacements could not be put off any longer. As the system ages the cost of repairs and maintenance increase.*

Additional questions addressed to the board.

Do all towns on the systems pay the same amount? *East Hampton, Colchester, Hebron, Marlborough and Lebanon pay a percentage of cost based on flow.*

How long is the capital improvement plan? *This is a 10 year plan for East Hampton items only.*

Is the Old Marlborough pump station just East Hampton's? *Yes.*

How many users are the system? *"3700" quoted, "2717" actual users.*

Do you know what the increase may be for next year? *Nothing has been decided yet.*

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If improvements were bonded, would the bond be spread across town? *Bond payments would be distributed to the sewer users only as this is an enterprise fund.*

Could the bills have been increased a smaller amount over time?
The WPCA Board has worked diligently to keep rates down, however there have been unplanned expenses that were paid out of capital, in hindsight possibly.

Are repairs contracted or done in house? *Repairs are contracted.*

Are there any future plans for new users? *There are areas in town where sewer is available for new users and developers.*

Is the New Town Hall and Steven Motto's apartments on sewer? *Yes, both are connected to sewer.*

3. Adjournment

Mr. DeSimone made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Terry. **Vote: 5-0; motion passed**
The meeting was adjourned at 7:05p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda B. Connors
Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by a vote of **Vote: 4-0; 2 abstained** by the East Hampton Water Pollution Control Authority on October 1, 2019.