

# Randolph Water and Sewer Advisory Committee

## Meeting Minutes – March 20, 2014

Randolph Town Hall – 7 Summer Street

**Present:** Members Mary Hardy, John Lutz, Tom Davis, and Tom Schersten (Don Maynard was absent), Chief Operator Elizabeth Walker, Town Manager Mel Adams, Town Engineer Mardee Sanchez and Public Letitia Rydjesky

Chair Schersten called to order: 8:32 AM

1. **Public to be heard** – None.

2. **Review of Water and Sewer Rates**

Adams opened the topic by discussing the timing of the new rates. He said it could be a few months out but that at least a month's notice had to be given to the first billing route to see the rate increase, which should be some time in the first quarter of fiscal year 2015.

Sanchez then went on to explain the two basic different options for structuring the new rates. Option A would be to keep what we have, which is basically a rate per unit (which is 1 hundred cubic feet (HCF)) with a set minimum billing (the current rates are \$6.50/HCF for water and \$5/HCF for sewer with a minimum billing of 12 HCF). Option B would be to charge each account a flat fee (could also be called a service fee or a ready-to-serve fee) that is based on the number of dwelling units for residential properties and based on the number of equivalent dwelling units (EDUs) for non-residential properties and then charge a rate per unit for actual usage. Examples of both options for the sewer system were provided and the pros and cons of each was discussed.

The Committee seemed to prefer on Option B but indicated it would like to see what the actual service fee would be and also what impact this fee structure would have on the water system. Mrs. Rydjesky expressed an interest in seeing a rate structure that was more fair to households like her that don't use the current minimum billing amount and where the owner is on a fixed income.

3. **Projects' and Systems' updates** – Walker

Walker indicated that the chlorine contact tank was being cleaned, still are many frozen water and sewer service lines, and the Town is working on the enforcement action by ANR for the notice of alleged violation from a year ago.

4. **Minutes** – March 6, 2014

As the minutes were not available, action on them was tabled.

5. **Old/new business**

Next meeting is April 17<sup>th</sup> when representatives of Neptune meters will be in to present their wares and the rate discussion will continue. Davis indicated that a site visit to the

North Reservoir would be good as soon as weather permits.

6. **Adjournment**

7. Davis/Hardy moved to adjourn. The motion passed 4-0-0 and the meeting ended at 10:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved:  as written  as edited

Mardee Sanchez

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