

TOWN OF FRIENDSHIP MINUTES

March 15, 2023

PUBLIC HEARING SEWER RATE INCREASE-6:30

REGULAR MEETING 7:00

Supervisor Hall calls public Hearing to order regarding the Sewer rate increase.

Pledge of allegiance observed.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present
Councilperson- Jill Hoopes-present
Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present
Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present
Councilperson-Steve Ritter-present

Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk
Attorney: David Pullen

Assemblage for Public hearing:

Karl Kruger, Dell & Michelle Baker, Jim Monheim, Tony France, Brett Clouse, Ken Burdick, George Ritter, Mark Voorheis, Rich Wenslow(Code Enforcement), Geo Pellati (and daughter), another unknown person, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, Kevin Snyder.

Any Discussion/questions:

This public hearing was for any discussion regarding the rate increase on the Sewer, \$15.00 on the cap charge, making the total cap charge now \$65.50 quarterly. Supervisor Hall advised that the BOND Hearing was already done, this hearing is just for the rate increase on the sewer cap.

Supervisor Hall brought up that the need for repairs to the Sewer plant were brought up In 2001-2005 things were breaking down 20 years ago, but was never discussed with the Board. If something was done about it then that the people wouldn't feel it so much in their bill and replacement parts due to inflation would not of been so bad. Karl Kruger advised he was on the Board in 2001 and he was never made aware of the problem.

Dell Baker stated people will loose their homes, if they cant pay their water/sewer bills. Michelle Baker asked if Grants were being applied for and Supervisor Hall advised, That grants have been applied for, maybe this year we get rejected, but then we Reapply next year. The Town did get awarded a \$50,000.00 grant to use for the Engineer study on the sewer plant.

Supervisor Hall asked if there were anything more from the Assemblage, there being no more discussion the Supervisor declared the public hearing closed.

Supervisor Hall calls the Regular meeting to order.

Roll call: Supervisor Russell Hall-present

Councilperson- Jill Hoopes-present

Councilperson-Carolyn Carney-present

Councilperson-Linda Mascho-present

Councilperson-Steve Ritter-present

Patricia Schurr-Town Clerk

Also present: Attorney Dave Pullen

Assemblage for Regular Meeting:

Karl Kruger, Dell & Michelle Baker, Jim Monheim, Tony France, Brett Clouse, Ken Burdick, George Ritter, Mark Voorheis, Rich Wenslow(Code Enforcement), Geo Pellati (and daughter), another unknown person, BJ Howe, Oakley Sortore, Kevin Snyder.

Motion to approve the minutes of February 15, 2023, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

Motion to approve the Supervisor's Report for February 2023, offered by Carolyn Carney, Seconded by Jill Hoopes. All approve.

Motion to approve the audited bills for February 2023 in the amount of \$ 137,254.39, offered by Steve Ritter, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

Roll call: Jill Hoopes- aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-aye

Russell Hall-aye

SUPERVISOR'S CONCERNS: Re: Crossing guard- Supervisor Halls advises he is close to hiring a crossing Guard for the school, was going back n forth with the County civil service and it has come down to that they have advised that the Town should do with however they did it when they had one before. In the past it was a contracted position they will be 1099'd at the end of the year. Still a few questions.

PUBLIC CONCERNS: NONE

RESOLUTION 10-2023 SEWER RATE INCREASE

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Board of Friendship will call for a vote on the increase the Sewer District Sewer Rents as follows:

- a. The current rates are set at \$50.50 cap(sewer o/m .72 per 100 gallons used)..
- b. Sewer rental rates shall increase by the amount of Fifteen Dollars(\$15.00) per quarter, effective on the 1st day of April, 2023.
- c. Following the increase the new Sewer rental rates shall be in the amount of \$65.50 Per EDU per quarter.
- d. Except as modified the Friendship Sewer District Rental Rates shall remain unchanged; and

Motion to approve the rate increase offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Roll call vote: Jill Hoopes-aye

Carolyn Carney-aye

Linda Mascho-aye

Steve Ritter-no

Russell Hall-aye

Oakley Sortore Concerns:

Only question or concerns was he was asking the Union contract would be agreed on, because the morale of his employees. Supervisor Hall advised some meetings are set and that's all he can say.

Councilperson Steve Ritter questioned the Refuse truck repairs and possibly looking for someone else to work on the truck,such as by fleet (prior I-86) or Blades. Oakley Sortore replied that he didn't believe Blades did repairs and he thought the current repair shop saved money.

Reports Received:

Town Clerk Report for February 2023

Highway Dept.

Dog Control Report

Police Report

Water Report

Code Enforcement officer, was questioned if there was anything he needed to report he advised the only thing he had to report was the install of 2 ev charging stations that will be going in soon down at the Crosby's Store. Councilperson Steve Ritter advised maybe that the end of Town East Main Street house should be looked at. Also 25 Maple Ave Burned house, has not yet been demo'd and was suppose to be taken down with the removal of the water/sewer caps, so if it is not going to demo'd completely than he should start paying the caps again. A letter should be sent.

7:25 Motion to go into Executive Session in regards to a personnel concern, motion offered by Jill Hoopes, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

7:37 Motion to go out of executive session back into regular session offered by Linda Mascho, seconded by Carolyn Carney.

2 People waiting to come back into regular session, Karl Kruger and BJ Howe.

Karl Kruger questioned if the position for the Board of Assessment review was still open. Supervisor Hall advised it was open and questioned if he was interested in filling that position and Mr, Kruger advised he was. The following motion was set forth:

Motion to appoint Karl Kruger to the open position of Board of Assessment Review, Offered by Carolyn Carney, seconded by Linda Mascho. All approve.
Real Property will be notified of the filled position.

7:48 Motion to adjourn offered Steve Ritter, seconded by Linda Mascho.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Schurr, Town Clerk