



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES
June 27th, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Mehreen N. Butt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mehreen N. Butt led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Mehreen N. Butt, Chair; Jonathan P. Chines, Vice-Chair; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; Michael J. McLane; Julie Smith-Galvin and Robert E. Vincent II.

Administration Present: Sherri A. Dalton, Town Council Clerk and Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator.

Town Counsel Present: Thomas A. Mullen.

Public Engagement: There was no public engagement.

Public Hearing: At 7:03 p.m. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to open the Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2023 Water & Sewer Rates. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call. Public Works Director Conway, Business Manager Waitt, Matthew Abrahams from the Abrahams Group as well as members from the Advisory Board of Public Works – Maria Palomino and Elena Proakis Ellis attended the public hearing via Zoom. The Advisory Board of Public Works recommended no change to the water and sewer service charges for Fiscal Year 2023; 3.5% increase in Water; 3.50% increase in Sewer; Sewer Flat Rate of 3,000 cubic feet, \$389.86 per bill, \$350.87 after 10% discount; no change in the \$50.00 per quarter Manual Read Meter Fee; no change in the Septic Disposal Rate - \$110.00 Facility Opening Fee, Disposal cost per 100 cubic feet to be charged at the current sewer rate, off hours disposal rate (additional) 3 hour minimum at current W-4 scale times 1.5 percent. Jonathan P. Chines questioned if the Advisory Board looked at other scenarios where a lower increase was targeted for Fiscal Year 2023. Mr. Abrahams stated the other options for Water Rates were 4.50% and 5.25%. Other Sewer Rates options were 2.15% and 4.50%. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. added that these rates are unsustainable, we should vote the absolute minimum and questioned how can we get expenses down. Robert E. Vincent II noted that the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Board of Directors approved their final Fiscal Year 2023 water and sewer assessments on June 22, 2022. He pointed out that MWRA noted that the average combined water and sewer rate increase of 2.85% was a significant decrease from the 3.42% increase proposed by the MWRA in February 2022. Based upon this new information, he asked the Advisory Board of Public Works, in their capacity as subject matter experts, if it would be advisable for the Town Council to increase the water rate by the recommended 3.5% increase, but reduce the sewer rate increase from the recommended 3.5% to 2.15%. Advisory Board Member Ellis stated she would be comfortable with that. No members of the public spoke. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to accept the Advisory Board of Public Works recommendation to maintain the service charges for Fiscal Year 2023 at the Fiscal Year 2022 levels as presented. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to accept the Advisory Board of Public Works recommendation for Water



Rates for Fiscal Year 2023 set at a 3.50% increase above Fiscal Year 2022 as presented. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. amended the motion to set the Water Rate at a 3.0% increase. Michael J. McLane seconded. Motion did not pass 2-5-0 with Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. and Michael J. McLane voting in favor of the motion. Robert E. Vincent II, Anne P. Danehy, Jonathan P. Chines, Julie Smith-Galvin and Mehreen N. Butt voting against the motion. Original motion stands and passed 5-2-0 with Robert E. Vincent II, Anne P. Danehy, Julie Smith-Galvin, Jonathan P. Chines and Mehreen N. Butt voting in favor of the motion. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. and Michael J. McLane voting against the motion. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to approve an increase to the Sewer Rate for Fiscal Year 2023 of 2.15%. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. amended the motion to set the Sewer Rate for Fiscal Year 2023 at a 1.0% increase. Robert E. Vincent II seconded. Motion did not pass 1-6-0 with Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting in favor of the motion. Robert E. Vincent II, Michael J. McLane, Anne P. Danehy, Julie Smith-Galvin, Jonathan P. Chines and Mehreen N. Butt voting against the motion. Original motion stands and passed 6-1-0 with Robert E. Vincent II, Michael J. McLane, Anne P. Danehy, Julie Smith-Galvin, Jonathan P. Chines and Mehreen N. Butt voting in favor of the motion. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. voting against the motion. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to accept the Advisory Board of Public Works recommendation for the Sewer Flat Rate of \$389.86 as proposed. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to accept the Advisory Board of Public Works recommendation for the Manual Read Meter Fee of \$50.00 per quarter as proposed. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to accept the Advisory Board of Public Works recommendation for the Septic Disposal Rate Formula as presented for Fiscal Year 2023. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote. At 8:50 p.m. Jonathan Chines motioned to close the Public Hearing. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Crosswalk Update: Public Works Director Conway presented an update regarding the annual process of line painting. Late Winter/Early Spring painting contractors are contacted to be placed on the seasons upcoming schedule. Center/Fog Line trucks and hand crews are scheduled to work overnight typically to paint one color per night. Annual street sweeping begins when winter is over and is completed before painting and painting is usually finished by July 4th. Wakefield has a variety of different styles of crosswalks. An initiative to develop consistency in Town began Spring 2022 and DPW is working to establish a procedure and design template for future years painting programs.

Approval of Minutes: Jonathan P. Chines motioned to approve the June 13th, 2022 Town Council meeting minutes as proposed. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 6-0-1 by roll call vote with Jonathan P. Chines, Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Michael J. McLane, Julie Smith-Galvin, Robert E. Vincent II and Mehreen N. Butt voting in favor of the motion. Anne P. Danehy abstained.

Appointment: Jonathan P. Chines motioned to appoint Robert E. Vincent II as the Town of Wakefield Warrant Signee beginning Fiscal Year 2023. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by roll call vote.

Warrant: Councilors were updated on Fiscal Year 2022 Warrants: Warrant 40 dated April 5th, 2022; Warrant 43 dated April 19th, 2022; Warrant 44 dated May 3rd, 2022; Warrant 46 dated May 17th, 2022; Warrant 48 dated May 31st, 2022; Warrant 50 dated June 14th, 2022.

Announcements: Anne P. Danehy: Master Plan workshop is Wednesday, June 29th, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Robert E. Vincent II: starting July 1st, 2022 eligible disabled veterans can apply for property tax exemptions. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.: Independence Day Committee is looking for volunteers. Mehreen N. Butt: schedule of events for the 4th of July are listed on the Town's website

and social media; Plaza Jazz at the Library on Thursdays from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Human Rights Commission is having a Pride Panel from 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on June 28th via Zoom; Covid tests are available at the front desk in Town Hall; congratulations to Ann Santos for being recognized as a Commonwealth Heroine Class of 2022 by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women. Julie Smith-Galvin: Thursday July 14th is the MAPC report on the Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan; July 17th from 12:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. is Safe Street Sunday. Jonathan P. Chines: thank you to everyone who joined the Town Council office hours at the Farmers Market; Movies by the Lake start July 14th; recognized a local resident who received the Brown and Blue Award from Tufts University. Town Administrator Maio: clarified trash pick-up on June 20th, 2022 stating it was the contractor's decision to work that day.

Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda: There were no matters unanticipated.

Adjournment: Jonathan P. Chines motioned to adjourn at 9:10 p.m. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton
Town Council Clerk