

THOMASTON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
PUBLIC HEARING 09/21/2010

**Present:** Ch. Mueller, Vice-Ch. Fainer, Comms. Piscopo, Ciarlo, and Madow, Plant Supt. Rich Tingle and Patricia Bidmead, WPCA Secretary.

**Others Present:** Dennis O'Sullivan, Diane LaBonte, Tony Durso, Sal Santa Maria, George LaCapra Jr and Jim Murphy.

This Public Hearing was held in the matter of increasing the sewer user fee from the current charge of \$6.20 per thousand gallons to a proposed increase of \$6.36 per thousand gallons pursuant to the provisions of Section 7-255 of the Connecticut General Statutes. This meeting was taped for future reference.

Ch. Mueller called the hearing to order at 7:02PM and then proceeded to read the Public Hearing notice that was published in the newspaper. He then introduced the Board members and staff to those present.

At this time Ch. Mueller opened the floor to those present for public comment.

A lengthy discussion ensued between the residents and Board whereas the residents expressed their concerns of the increase. All Board members gave their input on these concerns, answered all questions and explained the need for this increase. At the request of the residents this issue will be tabled until the next meeting.

On a motion by Piscopo, seconded by Madow, it was voted to close the hearing at which time Vice-Ch. Fainer felt it necessary to have it on record how the Board made the decision to go forth with an increase. Therefore, the motion made by Piscopo was withdrawn, seconded by Madow.

At this time Vice-Ch. Fainer stated various facts regarding the diligent efforts of the Board as to the process of trying to keep a tight Budget as well as keeping the sewer user fee at the lowest rate possible to meet the WPCA budget. Vice-Ch. Fainer feels that the Board has established proportionality by determining 50,000 gallons per residential unit which, according to our data, is the most representative form of volume per household. He also feels that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to establish actual gallonage for those on wells without the meters for backup. He also stated that the Board has addressed concerns from the public concerning the increase in the sewer rate by making adjustments to the budget by using whatever excess capital we could to the best benefit of the rates. This Board has made an outstanding attempt to reduce and/or minimize the expenditures put forth which resulted in the new rate proposed for the 2010 sewer use rates.

On a motion by Piscopo, seconded by Madow, it was voted to close the Public Hearing at 7:46PM. Motion carries.

Patricia Bidmead  
Secretary WPCA