

*Town of Wilmington*  
*Water & Sewer Commission*  
*February 21, 2016 Meeting*

The Water and Sewer Commission met on February 21, 2016 in Room 9 at the Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Present were Chairman Joseph Balliro, Commissioner George Allan, Commissioner Robert LaVita, Utility & Business Manager Joseph Lobao, and Recording Secretary Diane Forest. Also in attendance was DPW Director Michael J. Woods and Town Accountant Michael Morris.

**Abatement Request – 17 Palmer Way**

Mr. David Hughes was present to discuss his abatement request for his property at 17 Palmer Way. Mr. Hughes explained that he purchased a new refrigerator in August. While connecting the water line to the fridge, the plumber turned on a valve in the basement that activated the outdoor sprinkler system. This sprinkler system had a rather large leak in it, causing the November 2015 and February 2016 water bills to spike. ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO SPREAD THE PAYMENTS OVER THE NEXT FOUR (4) QUARTERS, IN ADDITION TO PAYING ANY CURRENT CHARGES ON TIME AND ANY LATE FEES OR PENALTIES ARE TO BE WAIVED FOR THE NOVEMBER 2015 AND FEBRUARY 2016 WATER BILLS.

It was discovered that the valve and connection to the outdoor water irrigation system is in violation of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act of 1975, (Public Law 93-523), and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations, 310 CMR 22.22. The Commission ordered Mr. Hughes to disconnect this cross connection violation immediately. Mr. Hughes stated that the connection is disconnected at this time as the sprinkler system is shut off at this time. He stated that he will have the plumber permanently eliminate the violation when the sprinkler system is reconnected in the spring. The Water Department will follow up to ensure that this takes place.

**Water Rate Increase**

Town Accountant, Michael Morris has recommended raising the current water rate by 8%. ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED THAT EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2ND QUARTER 2016 BILLING AN 8% RATE INCREASE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER ACCOUNTS, AS OUTLINED IN TABLE BELOW IN ADDITION TO THE FIRE PROTECTION CHARGES BEING INCREASED BY THE SAME 8%.

**Meter Rates (100 cu ft/quarter)**

	<u>Previous Rate</u>	<u>New Rate (as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016)</u>
<i>Residential Usage</i>		
0-10	\$3.27	\$3.53
10-20	\$3.62	\$3.91
20-30	\$4.35	\$4.70

Over 30	\$5.81	\$6.27
<i>Commercial</i>		
0-50	\$3.57	\$3.86
50-200	\$3.82	\$4.13
Over 200	\$4.18	\$4.51
<i>Industrial</i>		
0-300	\$3.53	\$3.81
100-300	\$3.77	\$4.07
Over 1000	\$4.12	\$4.45
<i>Municipal</i>		
0-100	\$0.00	\$0.00
100-300	\$0.00	\$0.00
Over 300	\$0.00	\$0.00

**Sewer Rate Increase**

Town Accountant, Michael Morris has recommended raising the current sewer rate by 3%. ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED THAT EFFECTIVE WITH THE 2ND QUARTER BILLING 2016 A 3% RATE INCREASE WILL BE IMPLEMENTED FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER ACCOUNTS, AS OUTLINED IN TABLE BELOW.

	<u>Previous Rate</u>	<u>New Rate (as of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter 2016)</u>
<i>Residential</i>	\$4.99	\$5.14
<i>Ind/Comm</i>	\$5.97	\$6.15

**Approval of Minutes** - January 21, 2016 Meeting - MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA AND UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 21, 2016 MEETING OF THE WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION.

**Billing Adjustments and Corrections**

The following billing adjustments and corrections were presented to the Commission:

Bill-Den LLC	5 Waltham Street	Commercial	Billed in Error	639.50
Paul Sirignano	11 Biggar Avenue	Residential	Data Entry Error	1.19
Lesley Abraham	91 Lake Street Tewksbury	Residential	Lien Fee	10.00

ON A MOTION MADE BY COMMISSIONER LAVITA SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLAN IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO RATIFY THE BILLING ADJUSTMENTS AND CORRECTIONS AS APPROVED BY PAMELA MACKENZIE, TREASURER COLLECTOR.

**2015 Annual Report**

The 2015 Annual Report was reviewed by the Commission. It was noted that the Water & Sewer report is now combined with the Department of Public Works.

**Monthly Report**

The monthly report for January 2016 was reviewed by the Commission.

**Browns Crossing Well Field Update**

As of today, Layne has 5 wells left to clean. They are almost done. DL Maher has more. The project is moving along smoothly. At completion, the pumping capacity is expected to be that of what it was in 2010.

**Delinquent Tewksbury Accounts**

The Commission members were provided with an updated list of delinquent accounts for water accounts providing service to Tewksbury residents. Two of the accounts have been paid in full. A second notice of collection has been mailed informing these customers that payment is due failure to pay in full or contact the Town to make payment arrangements will result in termination of water service.

**Other Business**

None

**Public Comment Period** – None

**Next Meeting**

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Water & Sewer Commission will be held March 17, 2016 at 5:30PM in Room 9.**

There being no further business a motion to adjourn carries at 6:15 PM.

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Diane Forest, Recording Secretary