

WEST CHARLOTTE VILLAGE WASTEWATER COMMITTEE

Approved MEETING MINUTES

June 29, 2020

Digital "Zoom" Meeting Platform

Members Present: Dave Marshall, Selectboard Liaison: Louise McCarron, Kate Lampton, Peter Joslin , Christina Booher,

Other active participants in the meeting; Fritz Tegatz

All motions, proposals, and resolutions made, offered, and considered, and what disposition is made of same;

Additions to the Agenda – None

Main Agenda

- The Committee reviewed the past history of this and other Wastewater Committee efforts on identifying project costs and proposing a means of collecting on those costs as part of a connection and user fee framework.
- Louise McCarron provided a background of approaches used in the rate setting domain on what rates can be based on, how they can be assessed, policies that can be implemented through rate setting and the fairness of the system.
- Louise pointed out that it is regular practice to set the rates on the fair cost of replacement of the system as it exists today. The Committee's previous thinking was to take the original cost and to add an inflation factor and then include a depreciation factor. Louise pointed out that depreciation is not typically used as part of the fee development but if it were it would show up as a credit in the operational end of the accounting.
- Kate Lampton stressed that providing access to the excess sewer capacity was a component of guidance from the Town Plan and that the goals of enabling and not disincentivizing this should be reflected in the pricing structure.
- The fee structure previously developed by the Committee was similar to that of Thompson's Point but even simpler. The connection fee would be used to collect the original prorated construction costs while the operational or user fees would reflect items such as annual maintenance, sinking funds, Lease use of the Burns Property.
- A discussion was initiated on how to collect fees for the future expansion of the system. After much discussion it was agreed that current or future users of the existing system should not have to fund the future wastewater disposal system expansion. This funding could initially come from connection fees and perhaps a loan from the sinking fund or more prudently on funding from future interested and committed parties who qualify and need the additional wastewater disposal capacity.

- It was mentioned that the State uses as a benchmark the need to plan, design and permit system expansions when the existing wastewater disposal system capacity reaches 80%. It is at this point that the Town should be committing some of the connection fees to this activity.
- It was recommended that an estimate of actual replacement costs be developed using current market rates as a starting place for developing the connection fee. This was assigned to Dave M.
- There was a short discussion on the creation of an application form. Christina volunteered to acquire examples of others Town's application forms.
- The next meeting was set for June 27th barring conflicts with and early start to the Selectboard meeting.

Results of any votes, with a record of the individual vote of each member if a roll call is taken.

Motion by Peter Joslin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Christina Booher. Motion passed 4-0.