



Town of Oak Bluffs
WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT
17 Pennsylvania Avenue
P.O. Box 1526
Oak Bluffs, Ma. 02557
Phone 508-693-0343 Fax 508-696-6035

Commissioner's Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2023

Call to order:

A monthly commissioner's meeting of the Oak Bluffs Wastewater Department was called to order at 4:04 PM, on June 28, 2023, by Gail Barmakian, Chairperson.

Oak Bluffs Wastewater Commissioners present:

Gail Barmakian, Commissioner

Bill Alwardt, Commissioner

Cassandra Bowler, Commissioner

Oak Bluffs Wastewater Treatment Facility Employees Present:

Patrick Hickey, Facilities Manager

Bridget Palmieri, Administrative Assistant

Guests in attendance: None

Business:

Agenda Item #1: FY24 Wastewater Rate Increase (Public Meeting)

Exhibits:

1. Proposed Rate Increases for FY24 Packet
2. Proprietary Funds Packet



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Discussion:

Gail Barmarkian begin that this is a public hearing being held in order to increase wastewater rates which will affect FY24 annual billing, beginning on July 1, 2023. She asked Patrick Hickey, the Wastewater Facilities Manager to describe what the rate increase would be.

Patrick Hickey began that the rate increase will be an additional \$200 base fee that every user will pay. In addition, users who use more than 360,000 gallons per year will pay an additional 0.012 cents per gallon that is used over 360,000 gallons.

Patrick Hickey continued that he would like to discuss how much revenue this increase will raise. He confirmed it would be approximately \$163,000. Discussion continued regarding use for the revenue including staffing and supply needs.

Cassandra Bowler confirmed that the \$200 base fee would go into effect this next billing cycle, July 2023. Then after a full billing cycle, we would bill the increase to the high-end users based on last year's usage.

Motion:

The motion to open the meeting to the public (as a public hearing) was made by Cassandra Bowler. The motion was seconded by Bill Alwardt.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Cassandra Bowler -Aye

Gail Barmakian -Aye

Bill Alwardt -Aye

Gail Barmarkian asked if there were any members of the public that had any questions or comments or are "For" or "Opposed" to this rate increase. There were no members of the public on zoom or in person.



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Cassandra Bowler asked when the last time rates were increased to which Patrick Hickey replied not since inception.

Motion:

The motion to adjourn the public hearing was made by Cassandra Bowler. The motion was seconded by Bill Alwardt.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Gail Barmakian -Aye

Bill Alwardt -Aye

Cassandra Bowler -Aye

Discussion continued amongst the Commission regarding the rate increase and the history. Gail Barmakian remarked that the rate increase is necessary, as shown from the documentation for increased expenses and immediate perceived increased expenses.

Cassandra Bowler questioned Bridget Palmieri on the billing and collection timing, to which she confirmed it would likely be the end of the year. Gail Barmakian suggested that a notice be sent with the billing or sent prior, to notify users of the increase. She continued that these two options could be discussed further at the next meeting.

Motion:

The motion in favor of the rate increase as proposed in the handout packet (Proposed Rate Increases for FY24) was made by Cassandra Bowler. The motion was seconded by Bill Alwardt.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Gail Barmakian -Aye

Bill Alwardt -Aye

Cassandra Bowler -Aye



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Motion:

The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Bill Alwardt. The motion was seconded by Cassandra Bowler.

Roll Call Vote:

All commissioners voted to approve the motion.

Gail Barmakian-Aye

Cassandra Bowler -Aye

Bill Alwardt -Aye

Meeting was adjourned at 4:16pm.