

# **Milford Water/Wastewater Commissioners' Meeting Minutes**

## **May 1, 2024**

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**Meeting ID: 816 3335 8881**

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### **Call to Order & Introductions –**

Chairman White called this meeting to order at 11:04 a.m.

Present: **Dale White**, Chairman, **Robert Courage**, Commissioner, **James Pouliot**, Director, **Laura Scott**, Recording Secretary.

### **Discussion & Information Items –**

Director Jim Pouliot explained how costly it is to run a treatment plant and the need to meet and balance those costs. Also, it is necessary to maintain and upgrade the plant in order to keep up with EPA codes and regulations. Without the rate increase we are not able to bring in enough revenue to cover the operational costs for end of year. The rate per quarter will become \$12.69. The average bill for a residential user is \$423 per year. The increase will only raise the yearly amount \$50.76 resulting in a new amount of \$473 per year. Even with the 12% increase Milford's rate is still below the State Average of \$712 per year.

### **Open to Public Comments at 11:22 a.m.**

**Dana Dahl**, Citizen, "I have a newbie question, GPD means? And how do you calculate the usage?"

**Director Pouliot**, "Gallons Per Day, it is based off the water usage. The way we bill residential is 80% of the consumed water, commercial is billed 100% of whatever their usage is."

**Kenneth Charest**, Citizen, "As a retired person, everything seems to be going up and someday no one will be able to afford to live in Milford, every 12% or 6% for this, public service things, what you get from the government for social security money does not go up, 2% vs 12% is a big difference. When I look in the parking lot, I see 3 brand new trucks out there. Those aren't cheap."

**Chairman White**, "I respect that, when everything runs good you don't need anything, but when you have a water break or a sewer break you need to be able to fix those and do it efficiently and effectively, and you're right it is costly"

**Kenneth Charest**, Citizen, "I walked down Adams Street this morning the towns out there doing some digging and brand-new trucks there too, where is all this money coming from? The tax payers."

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**Director Pouliot**, “We maintain our vehicles very well so they look new, but they’ve been spread out over the past 5-6 years, so some of the Sierra’s you are talking about is from 2019 and another from 2020. There is one new truck that you are seeing on Adams St that is a 2023”

**Kenneth Charest**, Citizen, “I’m talking about the dump truck”

**Director Pouliot**, “Yup, that’s the one ton we just got last year but was back ordered from 2021 but because of covid we didn’t get it till last year. We maintain our vehicles very well, the one we just got rid of was from 2002, so we got almost 20 years out of these vehicles.”

**Chairman White**, mentions that he thinks we have a responsibility to keep up with having good equipment to avoid problems of needing the equipment and not having it work properly due to being out of date. He understands the struggle of being retired and dealing with price increases. States that there is cost that has to be born and that we as a commission do not look at this lightly, there are some things we cannot change and that comes from Washington.

**Dana Dahl**, Citizen, mentions its fair especially for those kinds of actions happening in the culture.

**Chairman White**, explains his point of view of the benefits of having town water and sewer compared to having private septage and not only the maintenance and upkeep, but having to replace a septic after so many years. It is still a fair number for the increase when comparing the two.

**Mervin Newton**, Citizen, asked if the water and sewer department had trust funds for future costs.

**Chairman White**, “Yeah we do, we have two capital funds, one for water one for sewer that we put into every month.”

**Commissioner Courage**, “We put in so much money per year, \$10,000 a month in each water and sewer account up until this year, this year because of the increase in budgets and shortfall in revenue, no money is being put into the capital reserve. It was a good thing to create.”

**Chairman White**, stated we need to get back to that as soon as we can.

#### **Closed to Public Comments at 11:30 a.m.**

#### **Decisions –**

Upon motion by Commissioner Courage, “Motion to increase sewer rates by 12% increasing the Residential sewer rate to \$7.76 cubic feet and non-Residential to \$9.71 cubic feet effective June 1<sup>st</sup> 2024” seconded by Chairman White, was unanimously approved as presented by the 2:0 roll call

**Robert Courage:** announced “Aye”

**Dale White:** announced “Aye”

#### **Adjournment –**

At 11:45 p.m. upon motion by Commissioner Courage seconded by Chairman White, the meeting was unanimously adjourned by the 2/0 vote.

Robert Courage:     announced “Aye”  
Dale White:           announced “Aye”

**Future Meeting** – 11:00 a.m. Monday, May 6, 2024: Board of Commissioners’ meeting, at the Water Utilities Department, 564 Nashua Street

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Dale White, Chairman

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Courage, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date