

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN SPECIAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2014 – 6:00 PM  
SALISBURY TOWN HALL – COLCHESTER ROOM**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Donald Beaulieu, Chairman, Henry Richenburg, Freeman Condon, Wilma McDonald

**ABSENT:** Selectman Hunt

**ALSO PRESENT:** Neil Harrington, Town Manager, and Janet Flannery, Secretary

**I. Call to Order**

Chairman Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. He stated that this meeting is to cover some issues with the consultant that came about at the public hearing in September; this is not a public hearing but it is an opportunity to get answers from the consultant. He then explained that a subcommittee was established to look at the water and sewer rates and they met over eight months and recommended hiring a consultant, and he is present this evening. Christopher Woodcock was then introduced.

**II. Review Sewer & Water Rate Proposals with Consultant, Christopher Woodcock**

Mr. Woodcock said the paramount question was whether the Town should continue to use the EQR method of calculating sewer charges, rather than tying sewer charges to water consumption. He explained that there is not an exact way of setting water and sewer rates, but there are a number of ways and it's important for people to understand there isn't necessarily a right or wrong way. He noted that the question of EQRs came up in the subcommittee's discussion, as it did 6 years ago; different alternatives were looked at and there were in-depth discussions on whether to continue using EQRs. He said it's important for people to understand that the cost to run the sewer department is essentially fixed; if water consumption and sewer use is reduced 50% the cost to run the sewer system basically remains the same. The sewer system here is in place with a set amount of capacity. Salisbury is different than most of the 351 towns – in the summer months it has a large seasonal population and a variation with water and waste discharge. The subcommittee looked at all things in trying to decide whether to continue using EQR and decided that to continue to do so would be the best decision for Salisbury.

Chairman Beaulieu gave the public an opportunity to ask questions, limiting them to 3 minutes. Tom Saab – 190 No. End Blvd. said he had several questions. To begin, he asked Mr. Woodcock if, in interviewing him prior to hiring him as a consultant, whether Mr. Gould, Mr. Harrington, or Mr. Levesque suggested in any way that the Town liked the EQR system that they wanted him to recommend that the Town keep it? In response, Mr. Woodcock said that absolutely nobody told him that the EQR system must stay. Selectman Condon thanked Mr. Woodcock for his time and effort that he has put into this study and asked him, in his expert opinion, if he would say that the recommended water and sewer rate increase were simply enough to cover the projected costs of the two enterprise system. Mr. Woodcock said yes, that was correct, that the rate increases are just enough to cover the projected costs, but when the Town's wastewater permit comes due, if the EPA requires a substantial upgrade to the Town's wastewater facilities, then the sewer rate increase would be nowhere near enough.

### **III. Vote on Recommendation of Water & Sewer Rate Study Committee**

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Richenburg; unanimously voted that the Board of Selectmen, acting in their capacity as the Salisbury Water Commissioners, adopt the following changes to the Salisbury Water Department's Water Rate Schedule:

The Schedule for Metered Regular Water Customers is hereby amended by deleting the current Schedule in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the attached amended Water Rate Schedule for Metered Regular Water Customers. (Page 1)

The Schedule for Metered Seasonal Water Customers is hereby amended by deleting the current Schedule in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the attached amended Water Rate Schedule for Metered Seasonal Water Customers. (Page 2)

The Schedule for Private Fire Service is hereby amended by deleting the "Rate" section of the Schedule in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the attached amended Rate Schedule for Private Fire Service. (Page 3)

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Richenburg; unanimously voted that the Board of Selectmen, acting in their capacity as the Salisbury Sewer Commissioners, increase the Sewer User Fees from \$30 per month per EQR to \$40 per month per EQR, billed quarterly in arrears, effective January 1, 2015, and that the Rules and Regulations setting forth an amended User Fee Policy be adopted in the form presented to this meeting, effective January 1, 2015.

A copy of these schedules are on file in the Selectmen's office.

### **IV. Adjournment**

Motion by Selectman Richenburg, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to adjourn at 6:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted:  
Janet Flannery

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ed Hunt, Clerk