

**UTILITIES COMMISSION / WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING**

on  
**Proposed Sewer Rate Schedules**

May 7, 2018

**1. Call Public Hearing to Order**

The Public Hearing was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairperson Keith Hedrick.

Attending the Public Hearing were: Chairperson Hedrick, Commissioners Duarte and Scully; Director of Utilities Gaudet, and General Manager-Utility Finance Collard.

**2. Statement of Notice of Public Hearing Published May 1, 2018 in *The Day* of New London**

Chairperson Hedrick noted for the record that the legal notice of the Public Hearing was published in *The Day* of New London on May 1, 2018.

**3. Summary of:**

**Rationale for Proposed Sewer Rate Schedules**

Director Gaudet gave a summary of the rationale for the proposed sewer rate schedules. Copies of the proposed rates were available for public inspection. The rationale was four-fold: 1) sewer use rates are currently industry best practice – most other municipalities utilize a user-based rate schedule, 2) it provides equity among customers, 3) it provides adequate capital funding for sustainable day-to-day operations, and 4) provides favorable financing options such as grants and low-interest loans. Customer impact should allow for a decrease in expenditure overall, compared to a tax-based system. Typical residential bills should decrease, while large water usage commercial customers will probably increase. The user charge for an average residential customer would be approximately \$31.00 per month. The proposed Water Pollution Control Authority fiscal year 2019 budget is approximately \$4.9 million.

**4. Receipt of Public Comments on Proposed Revisions to the Existing Electric Rate Schedules**

**A. Acknowledge Correspondence for the Record**

Chairperson Hedrick acknowledged for the record that there was no correspondence received concerning the proposed Sewer Rate Schedules.

**B. Public Comments from the Audience**

Chairperson Hedrick called for public comments on the proposed Sewer Rate Schedules.

Mr. Michael Boucher – 16 Hillside Avenue, Groton - Mr. Boucher asked if the proposed budget was only for residential customers. Director Gaudet replied it was the total budget for the Pollution Abatement Facility. General Manager Collard stated the budget was not broken out by customer class. Mr. Boucher asked what was included in the free city services. General Manager Collard replied it was for city buildings. Mr. Boucher asked how Thames Valley Communications (TVC) will pay for their sewer usage. General Manager Collard stated TVC pays a pro-rated share of utilities, in addition to their monthly rent, and will pay for sewer as well. Mr. Boucher asked if Bill Memorial Library will pay sewer fees. General Manager Collard stated every customer who receives a water bill will also receive a sewer bill. Director Gaudet reported the free city services are included in the Utilities proposed fiscal year 2019 budget. Chairperson Hedrick asked if there were any city entities that did not receive a water bill. General Manager Collard stated he did not know the details of all the utilities accounts. All non-

taxable entities and non-profits will now be now be paying a sewer use fee, and have been contacted by Management to advise them of last year's water consumption for budgeting purposes.

**5. Adjournment**

There being no further questions or comments, at 7:13 p.m., Chairperson Hedrick closed the public hearing.

Attest:

Paul A. Duarte  
Clerk