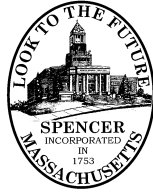


# TOWN OF SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

## OFFICE OF THE SEWER COMMISSION

FRANCIS X. WHITE, CHAIRMAN  
LAWRENCE H. DUFAULT, CLERK  
MICHAEL J. MERCADANTE, MEMBER

JAMES T. LAPLANTE, JR., SUPERINTENDENT



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### **Minutes of Meeting & Public Hearing held October 21, 2020**

Meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners - Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA. (Reports are on file at the Utilities & Facilities Office)

France White called the meeting to order at 4:05pm and announced that the meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Bakers Executive order. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus. We are currently meeting with a combination of members present and remote. All votes will be taken by roll call in accordance with regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law.

Members present: Francis "Frank" White  
Lawrence "Larry" Dufault  
Michael "Mike" Mercadante

Sewer staff present: James Laplante, Jr., Supt.  
Debra Graves, Sr. Clerk

### **Vote to approve Meeting Minutes for September 22, 2020.**

A motion to approve the minutes of September 22, 2020 (Mike/Larry) passed 3/0 with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.

### **Superintendent James Laplante Reports:**

- Review Monthly Operations Report
  - Review Monthly Monitoring Report
- (Reports are on file at the Utilities & Facilities Office)

### **Budget & Capital items:**

- Discuss having Tighe-bond do a sewer rate study proposal. Sewer Commissioners would like to take this under advisement.
- Discuss hiring Laborer but might have to look for Chief Operator. Sewer Commissioners would like to take this under advisement. Will review this again before April.
- Review sewer rates and retained earnings. Retain earnings is higher this fiscal year because of the Covid-19. Sewer projects haven't been started but monies have been allocation for the projects. Sewer rate increase has been tabled until further notice.

### **Sewer Systems Upgrades:**

- Lake Street Senior Housing project. Sewer Dept. have not been successful to identify a source that would quantify the removal percentage of 4:1 for the Lake St proposal. Also, the Spencer Board of Sewer Commissioners did vote on a moratorium 9/22 of any projects not to exceed 440 gallons per day of design flow.

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Resident Concerns:

- 38 Lincoln St – high usage toilet was leaking (fixed) requesting abatement for sewer. Mike motion not to abate sewer portion of the bill, seconded by Larry and in favor, Frank. Passed with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.
- 103 Mechanic St – requesting to have sewer late fee waived. Larry motion to waive the \$15.00 late fee, seconded by Frank and in favor, Mike. Passed with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.
- 1 Duggan St – requesting to have sewer late fee waived. Mike motion to waive the \$15.00 late fee for one time only, seconded by Frank and in favor, Larry. Passed with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.
- 47 Ash St – requesting to have sewer late fee waived (stating mailed payment on time). Larry motion to waive the \$15.00 late fee for one time only, seconded by Frank and not in favor, Mike. Passed 2/1 with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-no, Frank-yes.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:57pm. Motion by Larry, Seconded by Frank, and in favor, Mike.

Motion by Larry to go into Public Hearing at 5:00pm to discuss Sewer Rates, seconded by Frank, and in favor, Mike. passed 3/0 with a roll call vote: Mike-yes, Larry-yes, Frank-yes.

Discuss Sewer Rates Increase:

- Sewer Commissioners discussed rate cost & upgrade cost. Sewer Commissioners decided not to raise sewer fees at this time. To be discussed at a later date.

Public Meeting adjourned at 5:01pm motion by Larry, Second by Frank and in favor, Mike.

*The Board voted and approved minutes on 11/30/20*