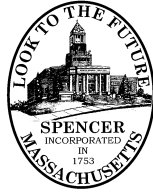


# TOWN OF SPENCER, MASSACHUSETTS

## OFFICE OF THE SEWER COMMISSION

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

JAMES T. LAPLANTE, JR., SUPERINTENDENT



3 OLD MEADOW ROAD  
SPENCER, MA 01562  
TEL. 508-885-7541  
TTY 508-885-7525  
PLANT 508-885-7542

### **Minutes of Meeting & Public Hearing held December 29, 2020**

Meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners - Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall, Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA.

France White called the meeting to order at 4:06pm 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 Dial in: Francis "Frank" White  
Lawrence "Larry" Dufault  
Michael "Mike" Mercadante

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

### **Vote to approve Meeting Minutes for November 30, 2020.**

A motion to approve the minutes of November 30, 2020 (Mike/Frank) passed 3/0 with a roll call vote: Mike-yes, Larry-yes, Frank-yes.

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

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

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

- FY2022 preliminary budget due January 7, 2021.
- Sewer Commissioners discuss hiring a second Chief Operator to address staffing concerns with impending staff member retirement, this would allow time for training. Mike motion to go forward in Advertising for a second Chief Operator, second by Frank all in favor Larry. Passed 3/0 with a roll call vote Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.
- Sewer Commissioners discuss Sugden Building payment agreement and Mexicali Grill. The Sewer Commissioners would like review design plans on the restaurant.

Sewer Systems Upgrades:

- Sewer Commissioners review the jetting equipment quotes. This would have to go out to bid. The jetting equipment should pay for itself in 5 years. Sewer Commissioners would like the Jetting equipment to operated solely by trained Sewer Department staff only.
- Discuss Tighe & Bond Sewer Rate Evaluation Proposal. They will develop a customized spreadsheet-based rate model. Tighe & Bond will perform these services for a lump sum fee of \$12,000. Sewer Commissioners would like this added to the next month Agenda.
- Need to advertise for an Owners Project Management for the Spencer Upgrades. The design services can be paid out of retain earnings or design. Larry motion to go forward with the advertising for the services, Second by Frank and in favor, Mike. roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.

Sewer Moratorium:

- Sewer Commissioners wants to revise the sewer moratorium. Would like to add no subdivision to the current Sewer Moratorium. Larry motion to add no subdivision to the Sewer Moratorium, second by Frank, and in favor, Mike. Passed 3/0 roll call vote Mike-yes, Larry-yes, Frank-yes.

Public Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm motion by Mike, Second by Frank and in favor, Larry.

Public Hearing:

Motion by Mike to go into Public Hearing at 5:01pm to discuss disposal fees, seconded by Larry, and in favor, Frank. passed 3/0 with a roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.

Septage & Tight Tank Fees:

Sewer Commissioners discussed Septage & Tight Tank Fees:

- Septage Disposal Fee will increase from .06 cents a gallon to .07 cents. Septage fee will be \$35 minimum up to 500 gallons and \$35.00 for up to each additional 500 gallons.
- Tight Tanks will increase from .03 to .035 cents a gallon. Tight Tanks will be \$17.50 minimum up to 500 gallons and \$17.50 for up to each additional 500 gallons.
- St. Joseph's Abbey Jelly Wastewater and Spencer Brewery disposal cost will stay the same \$45.00 minimum up to 1,000 gallons and \$22.50 for up to each additional 500 gallons.

Mike motion to increase septage fee from .06 cents a gallon to .07 cents and increase Tight Tank fee from .03 to .035, second by Larry and in favor, Frank. roll call vote: Larry-yes, Mike-yes, Frank-yes.

Public Hearing adjourned at 5:09pm motion by Larry, Second by Frank and in favor, Mike.

*The Board voted and approved minutes on 1/20/2021*