

Minutes of the March 23, 2022, Hingham Town Public Hearing

Present at the public hearing were Mayor Thomas Peterson, Sandi Peterson, Roger Haas, Dan Horinek, Dave George, Dillon Lipp, and 4 town residents were present. Meeting was called to order by Mayor Peterson at 7:00 pm.

Mayor Peterson discussed the upcoming sewer rate increase of \$25.00 making monthly sewer rate \$35.00. The council will decide at the April meeting when the new rate will go into effect, April or May billing. Mayor Peterson discussed the reason for the rate increase. The rate increase is necessary, as we must reach a targeted rate (set by the state) for combined sewer and water, to be able to apply for the grants we need to complete the upcoming sewer/lagoon project.

The handout that was supplied by RPA at the public hearing on March 8, 2022 was given to the residents present. We then covered the power point and the funding possibilities. Sandi mention that the power point is on the town website and that on the paper power point there is a misprint on page 21 for the local cash. This should state \$31,880 not \$21,880 (it is correct on the website). This is the amount we paid PACE for the sewer line jetting and CCTV.

Grace Bailey asked about possible grants for water leaks in town. The council explained that our main concern right now is the lagoon which is a big project. The possible leaks in town are small and would require a much more funding to even locate leaks. Dillon stated that leaks can be in one place but travel pipes and would be very hard to find. This will be something to discuss at a later date. But for now, we will deal with leaks as they arise.

Zach Rathbun asked where the \$35 sewer rate fee goes. Sandi explained that the sewer fees go into the sewer fund for any projects that are needed that pertain to the sewer/lagoon. Unlike the base of \$49.00 for the water usage (which \$45.00 of it goes to Hill County Water District monthly per resident) the \$35.00 will stay in the Hingham sewer fund.

It was also stated that the annual sewer customers will now be billed monthly as the amount would now be \$420.00 annually vs \$120.00 annually.

Dave made a motion to adjourn, and Dillon seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned.

Mayor

Clerk