

**Jewett City Department of Public Utilities
Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing Minutes
May 5, 2022**

The Public Hearing of the Jewett City Department of Public Utilities (JCDCU) Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the Meeting Room of the Griswold Town Hall on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at 6:30 pm. The notice of the meeting is attached.

In attendance were Chairman Louis Demicco III and Comm. Kenneth Comfort. Also in attendance were Timothy Sharkey, Warden of the Borough of Jewett City and Kenneth S. Sullivan, Director of Utilities.

There were no additional interested persons present at the start of the public hearing.

Director Sullivan called the Public Hearing to order at 6:30 pm.

Director Sullivan introduced himself for the record, the Director of Utilities of the Jewett City Department of Public Utilities.

Director Sullivan mentioned that before opening the floor to public comment he would like to state a few high-level details to the primary drivers for this rate increase. He stated that the increase is proposed to be 6.4% which would take the sewer user rate from \$6.22 per unit to \$6.62 per unit, where he stated a unit represents 748 gallons of water flow. He stated that three primary drivers are driving this rate increase. The first being inflation, the second is the maintenance needs at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, and third a lack of sufficient flow that leads to a lack of sufficient revenue to run the plant. He stated that the plant is going on eighteen years of age and is now showing a constant need of maintenance work to be done. He stated that this is typical of a plant of this age and if not weekly but every other week something is breaking down and in need of repair or replacing. He explained that in this time of high inflation it is costing more to have items repaired than it has in the past. He stated these are the three primary drivers to warrant a rate increase, with the emphasis on this increase only being a temporary help at this point in time, it is not a cure for the future. The needed increase is much larger than we are putting forward at this time. He stated that he thinks we can manage it for a time by pursuing increased conservation at our wastewater treatment plant that will drive some savings in the electrical costs along with other things we can do in order to efficiently do our part.

Director Sullivan stated that we can limp along with this user rate increase but if flow doesn't increase within the next twelve months, he would guarantee that he would be back next year seeking another increase in the user rate. He stated that he hoped that this high inflation would go away eventually, but the lack of sufficient flow to this plant that produces a lack of sufficient revenue to run this plant is the problem. He stated that if the lack of flow continues, it will prompt at least periodic increases to the sewer rate.

Director Sullivan stated that in attendance, as stated above, were some members of the public that mostly consisted of the members of the board and the Borough Warden, Tim Sharkey. He stated he is opening the hearing to the public and if anyone had any questions, he would answer them.

Louis Demicco III asked what the increase would show to an average bill? Director Sullivan stated that the increase would show an average increase of \$0.65 to \$0.66 per week per bill for an average single-family home.

Director Sullivan asked if there were any other questions.

Director Sullivan announced that per CT State Statutes the public hearing was advertised in the Norwich Bulletin on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Director Sullivan asked if there were any last-minute questions.

Director Sullivan made the motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:35 pm. The motion was seconded with all in favor.

Director Sullivan thanked those who attended this hearing.

Respectfully,



Debra L. Bingell
Secretary to the Board

Borough Of Jewett City
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

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**BOROUGH OF JEWETT CITY and
TOWN OF GRISWOLD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the Borough of Jewett City Department of Public Utilities **will hold a Public Hearing on Thursday, May 5, 2022 (6:30 P.M. at Griswold Town Hall)**, to allow property owners to express their concerns on the following matter:

- (1) The Jewett City Department of Public Utilities proposal, pursuant to Conn. Gen. Statute Section 7-255, to increase the volume-based fees for the use of the Borough's sewerage system from \$6.22 to \$6.62 per hundred cubic feet of water. The total proposed fee of \$6.62 would include an allocation of \$ 0.11 per hundred cubic feet of water to be placed into a debt escrow account.

The foregoing increase is proposed to become effective on July 1, 2022, for bills issued on or after that date for wastewater discharges that occurred or will occur on or after January 1, 2022.

Dated at Jewett City, Connecticut this 25th day of March 2022.
Louis Demicco III, Chairman of the Jewett City Department of Public Utilities.

*Posted on the
JCDPU Bulletin
Board on
4/18/2022
Debra L. Ringell
Secretary to the
Board*