

JEWETT CITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

Board of Commissioners

Public Hearing Minutes

February 26, 2025

The Public Hearing of the Jewett City Department of Public Utilities (JCDPU) Board of Public Utilities Commissioners was held in the meeting room of the Jewett City Municipal Center on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 6:00 PM. The notice of the meeting is attached.

In attendance were Chairman Louis Demicco III, Commissioner Kenneth Comfort, Commissioner Timothy Sharkey, and Director of Utilities, Elier Alvarado. Also in attendance was Selectman Martin McKinney and Todd Sklodosky, Secretary to the Board, recording.

Additional attendees were interested members of the public.

Chairman Demicco read the call of the Public Hearing.

Chairman Demicco advised that the hearing is being streamed live on the Borough of Jewett City's Facebook website. He announced the fact that per CT State Statutes, this Public Hearing notice was advertised in the Norwich Bulletin on February 14, 2025, and mailed to all property owners. He explained the purpose of the Public Hearing. The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear concerns or general thoughts from the public regarding a proposed sewer rate increase of 9.80 % which would increase sewer rates from \$ 8.28 per unit to \$ 9.09 per unit where he stated a unit represents 748 gallons of waterflow. This would include an allocation of \$0.02 per unit to be placed into a capital replacement account. The foregoing increase will become effective April 1, 2025, for bills issued on or after that date for water discharges that occurred or will occur on or after October 1, 2024.

The floor was opened to Director Alvarado for a power point slide presentation on the current status, the key factors shaping where we are today, the impact to the average customer, and the path moving forward. He summarized the recent audited financials and explained the sustained losses that have incurred and will continue to occur. The presentation summarized the wastewater treatment plant since being built in the Year 2000 and how the consumption rate has not increased enough with driving factors such as economic development. Mention was made of the continuing increases in operating expenses, maintenance and treatment supplies. Further mention was cost saving measures put in place along with rate studies and new vendor partnerships to help reduce costs. Critical improvements to the plant was discussed in detail with completed projects and significant upcoming upgrades. A graph slide was exhibited where the JCDPU stands with other utility company rates. Due to technical difficulties two remote presenters from Moonshot Missions and Quantified Ventures were not able to speak .

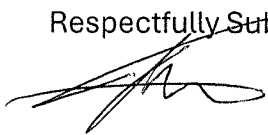
Upon completion of the presentation Chairman Demicco asked the public if they had any questions and to state their name and address.

Leona Sharkey of 11 Lenox Avenue inquired if the remote presenter could forward their presentation. Director Alvarado made mention that it was a verbal only presentation. Upon conclusion of Mr. White's questions Mrs. Sharkey asked if the town could expect another rate increase by the end of Year 2025. Director Alvarado stated that it depends on Quantified Ventures rate study and discussions on a plan moving forward. She also inquired of when all the repairs and upgrades are finalized would the plant be at full capacity outside of regular maintenance. Director Alvarado made mention that it is anticipated to be at full capacity.

Jerry White of 29 Pleasant View Street questioned if after the repairs are made will there be more to be done which Director Alvarado advised of further need infrastructure repairs and pump station upgrades. Chair. Demicco made mention of ground water infiltration. Further mention of processing ground water (I&I) is costly to the JCDPU. Mr. White expressed his concern of future rate increases. Chair. Demicco summed up that without increases in flows that it could be possible.

Chairman Demicco asked if there were any further questions. Upon no response he made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:25PM, seconded with **All in favor, motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted:



Todd A. Sklodosky
Secretary to the Board