

## ***Laconia Water Department***

### ***Board of Commissioners***

#### ***Public Hearing***

***August 2, 2018***

Chairman Joseph Driscoll called a special meeting of the Laconia Water Department Board of Water Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 2, 2018 in the conference room at the Water Treatment Facility. Present were Commissioners Joseph Driscoll, Greg Page, and Dennis Bothamley; Ex-Officio member Public Works Director Wes Anderson, Superintendent Seth Nuttelman, and Clerk Cheryl Hounsell. Also present was one member of the Public.

Chairman Driscoll stated that the purpose of this meeting is for public input on the proposed water base rate increase from \$20.00 to \$21.00 and a consumption rate increase from \$1.85 to \$2.35 per hundred cubic feet (HCF) of water used.

The notice for this meeting was posted at the City Hall Clerk's Office and the Laconia Public Library on 7/20/2018 and it was printed in the Laconia Daily Sun on 7/24/18.

Chairman Driscoll opened the public hearing at 6:02 p.m. on 8/2/18.

Chairman Driscoll stated that the need for an increase has arisen due to the increase in operational and maintenance costs, chemicals, electricity, etc. Chairman Driscoll also stated that there has been a decrease in the gallons of water sold primarily due to conservation. He also stated that we are looking at some large capital expenditures in the near future.

Chairman Driscoll stated that the proposed increase equals approximately \$54 per year for the average homeowner and a family of 4 averages approximately \$0.87 per day for their water.

Chairman Driscoll stated that the meeting is now open for public comment.

Rick Hewitt of Hewitt Welding of 536 Union Avenue stated that he owns five properties in the City of Laconia. He further stated that he serves on the Board of the Condominium Association for Southgate Terrace and is a landlord as well as a business owner. He stated that he has concerns with the proposed water rate increase that the newspaper reported as 27%. Seth stated that the base rate is increasing from \$20 to \$21 per unit per quarter which equates to a 5% increase and the consumption rate is going from \$1.85 to \$2.35 or \$.50 per HCF which equates to 27%. Seth stated that when you combine the increase on the base and the consumption the overall increase is 19% on an average single family home. Seth further stated that a single family home using 25 HCF per quarter will see an increase of \$54 per year or \$13.50 per quarter. Rick stated that he felt he was representing a lot of the community that is concerned with these rising rates. A

Laconia Water Commission Public Hearing Rate Increase 08/02/18

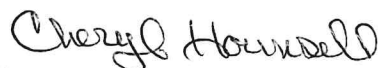
discussion ensued concerning usage, and conservation and costs going forward. Rick wrapped up the discussion by stating that he felt that the Laconia Water Department has a very good product and that the department does a good job keeping operating and maintenance costs down. With Rick's concerns over the impact on the Southgate Terrace, Seth stated that we can look at the account and let him know what the impact of the increase will be. Rick thanked the Board for their time and left the meeting.

Chairman Driscoll stated "If there are no further comments I close this public hearing at 6:30 p.m."

A motion was made by Greg Page, seconded by Dennis Bothamley to increase the base rate from \$20.00 to \$21.00 per unit per quarter and the water consumption rate from \$1.85 to \$2.35 per hundred cubic feet on all bills issued on or after November 1, 2018. The vote was unanimous.

The chairman signed pages 13, 14, and 15 of the Water Works Tariff which outline the new water rates.

A motion was made by Dennis Bothamley, seconded by Wes Anderson to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The vote was unanimous.



Cheryl Hounsell, Clerk

  
Authorized Signature

  
Date