

**JOINT MEETING OF THE  
NEW SHOREHAM SEWER AND WATER COMMISSION**

**Monday May 16th, 2016 at 4:00pm**

**Town Hall, Old Town Rd, Block Island**

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**PRESENT were SEWER Commission members: Peter McNerney (Chair), Brad Marthens, Terri Chmiel, Martha Ball and Kathy Szabo.**

**PRESENT were WATER Commission members: Brad Marthens (Chair), Terri Chmiel, Martha Ball, Kathy Szabo and Peter McNerney.**

**ABSENT were Commission members: Tom Doyle and Steve Draper.**

**ALSO PRESENT were: Sewer Superintendent Chris Blane, Water Superintendent John Breunig, Nancy Dodge, Finance Director Amy Land, Deputy Finance Director Mona Helterline.**

**With a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by P. McNerney.**

**WORK SESSION**

**1) FY 2017 Budget**

**-Water District FY 2017 Budget**

## **-Sewer District FY 2017 Budget**

**The meeting commenced with talk about the wage increases. Martha had a question as to why the Sewer Commission pays for 25% of the Water Superintendents salary. John Breunig stated that this is to compensate for the meter work that he does for the Sewer. He has often felt that this should be a set number though, rather than a percentage, and that it is not always him that is doing the work.**

**Terri was curious about the wage increase, Finance had provided a graph showing both options which included the across the board 2.5% increase and the proposed average of all increases and then shared among employees. Brad felt strongly that the Commission should mirror the Union and stick with the 2.5% increase. John felt he wanted to continue with his proposal but he is ok with whatever the Commission agrees upon. The majority agreed that they should stick with the union and go with the 2.5%.**

**McNerney wanted to discuss why the sewer rates were not increasing this year. He is concerned because part of the reason that the Sewer Commission was in financial trouble previously was because of no rate increase. Amy agreed, but also stated that they did not have the reserves to sustain themselves before; and that now the operating revenue funds exceeds your operating expenses, which is exactly where you want to be. Also, you do not need a rate increase to meet those numbers. McNerney doesn't feel the capital budget is where it needs to be in terms of the Superintendent having enough money to maintain what needs to be maintained. It was discussed if they were**

raised how much they would be raised by and that it would be nice to give the rate payers a break for a year after the hefty increase they have seen in the past. Also you would not be seeing an increase in your customer charge if there was an increase as that has to be equal to your debt service which it is at this time. It was decided that finance would put together a proposal showing a rate increase of 1.5%. This 1.5% would go to the contribution to reserves. On the sewer side the water line was decrease by \$1000 putting it at \$5500.

**Adjournment.**

**MOTION** was made by P. McNerney to adjourn the meeting at 05:15 p.m. Motion seconded by B. Marthens.

**Aye: 5 (McNerney, Ball, Szabo, Marthens and Chmiel)      Nay: 0**  
**Abstain: 0**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Kara Stinnett**

**ACCEPTED: 05/23/16**

**The New Shoreham Sewer and Water Districts are an equal opportunity provider and employer**

**If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send you completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).**