**562 Winterbrook Road Campton, NH 03223**
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**WEVD 2023 Meeting APPROVED Minutes**

**May 2, 2023 – 6:00 PM**

**Attendees:** Commissioners Maureen Patti, Gerry Panuczak, and David Spinney. General Manager Ron Beard, Water Department Administrator Allison Smith, Harry Bertino,

**Attendees via Zoom:** the Glynn's, Tom H., Jamie Oldmixon.

**Call to order:** Commissioner Panuczak was chairing the meeting due to Ms. Patti being present only virtually called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call of Commissioners:** Mr. Panuczak, and Mr. Spinney were present in person. Ms. Patti was present via Zoom.

**Adoption of Agenda**
There were no changes to the agenda. *Mr. Panuczak moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Spinney duly seconded. Motion carried with a 3:0 roll call vote in favor: Mr. Panuczak – aye, Mr. Spinney – aye, Ms. Patti – aye.*

**PUBLIC HEARING re: ADOPTION OF WATER RATES**
Mr. Panuczak opened the public hearing at 6:02 PM. He said that this public hearing is to adopt the water rate for 2023. He said that the first billing took place in November of 2022 with bills being due in December of 2022. The budget was adopted at the Annual Meeting in April of 2023 and the second billing will take place in May with the due date in June.

Ms. Smith went over the numbers on the document in the packet that showed the calculations associated with setting the water rates. She said that the decrease in rate is on average 11% just as was anticipated. The split is 25%/75% availability and usage and the amounts for each were determined to be $88.25 per property (Availability charge) and $107.73 per occupant. Ms. Smith also explained that Campton and Thornton Town owned properties should not be included in the billing therefore the number of 826 properties should be 820 after the exclusion of those.
Mr. Spinney asked Mr. Smith when the construction bond for Pegwood Road infrastructure improvements will fall into this water rate. Ms. Smith answered that this will affect next year's budget, therefore November billing.
There was a brief discussion of those Town owned properties and the possibility of them being tax titled properties that may eventually make it back into the billing cycle once they are transferred into private ownership again.

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Mr. Panuczak opened the floor to the public.

- Harry Bertino, 27 Condo Road, asked what constitutes the fiscal year for the District, which is the calendar year. He then asked about the rate per occupant being $107.73 and why it was not the same rate per bedroom. Ms. Smith explained how the rate was calculated with the availability charge of $88.25 being added to the bedroom count where the first bedroom counts as two occupants and any additional bedroom as one occupant.

There was back and forth as Mr. Bertino asked to explain how the rate changes with occupancy, and Mr. Panuczak explained that the occupancy is determined based on the tax card identification of the number of bedrooms in the house plus one. The number of people living in the house does not affect the water rate for that property. Mr. Panuczak advised Mr. Bertino to read the definitions in the Water Ordinance if he was still unclear.
Mr. Bertino said that he does not see that the Water Ordinance is based on a federal standard or definition for occupancy. Mr. Bertino also spoke about semantics and whether the public hearing changed the definition of words and suggested that the Commission needs to figure out what they are doing and that they are trying to rig the system.

Mr. Panuczak checked with Ms. Smith and there was nobody else willing to address the Commission from the public, either online or in person, no emails or phone calls.
Mr. Panuczak closed the public hearing at 6:16 PM.

*Mr. Panuczak made a motion to accept the water rates as proposed by the Water Department. Mr. Spinney duly seconded. Motion carried with a 3:0 roll call vote in favor: Mr. Panuczak – aye, Mr. Spinney – aye, Ms. Patti – aye.*

**Next Meeting:**

**Commission meeting – Wednesday, May 10, 2023 @ 6 p.m.**

**Adjourn Meeting**
*Mr. Panuczak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Spinney duly seconded. Motion passed by a 3:0 roll call vote: Ms. Patti – aye, Mr. Spinney – aye, Mr. Panuczak – aye.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 PM.

Prepared by Alvina Snegach