

**Board of Sewer and Water Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes; December 20, 2023**

5:07 PM: Open Meeting

Quorum present: Earl Moffatt (EM); Simon Davenport (SM); Alex Stein (AS); Mark Webber (MW). Also present: Mike Buffoni (MB), Water and Sewer operations licensed chief.

Commissioners review prior posted meetings' discussions regarding looming deficits in Sewer Operations because of increased vendor/supplier costs. Conversely, water operations have comfortable operating reserves with anticipated normal operations going forward.

AS shares his calculations on a range of increases in sewer rates along with various water operations rate reductions.

Commissioners discuss and agree that a reduction in water rates would lessen the effect of a sewer rate increase. The majority, not all, of sewer customers are also water customers. Water only customers would get a straight benefit.

MB notes that West Stockbridge already has lower than many surrounding community water and sewer rates.

MW makes a motion, per AS study and recommendations from both the MA Department of Environmental Protection (MADEP) and the Town's professional auditors and the Town Accountant to adjust rates as follows: increase sewer rate by 20% to \$0.072 per cubic feet and decrease water by 15% to \$0.03315 per cubic foot used.



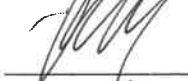
SD seconds the motion. Vote taken: 4-0 in favor.

SD offers to draft an informational insert in the next billing to state and explain the change in rates.

Commission discusses and sets the next meeting date for January 24, 2024 at 5 PM.

5:50 PM: There being no public present and no further discussion from Commissioners, MW makes a motion to adjourn the meeting. EM seconds the motion. Vote taken, 4-0 in favor.

Meeting minutes approved by:

		
Alexander Stein	Simon Davenport	Earl Moffatt
<u>3/18/24</u>	Date	Mark Webber