

A Public Hearing of the Village of Potsdam Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 15, 2017 at 6:30 P.M., in the Civic Center Board Room, Park Street, Potsdam, New York.

PRESENT: Mayor Tischler
Trustees Warr, Hopke & Sheehan

ALSO PRESENT: Lori S. Queor, Village Clerk/Treasurer
Greg Thompson, Village Administrator

Mayor Tischler opened the hearing at 6:31 P.M. He stated that this public hearing is to receive public comments on a proposed local law to amend Chapter 138 Sewers Article VII General Provisions of the Potsdam Village Code. He took the roll stating that all members were present except for Trustee Garner.

Village Clerk, Lori Queor, then read the Legal Notice as published.

The Mayor then asked for public comments.

Manasseh Burt from the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC) gave an overview of the potential changes to the sewer and water rates due to changing over to an Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) method for billing.

Selma Foster of 6 Hamilton Street asked about the formula and the fact that 70% of the rate payers come from student housing. Manasseh explained the formula and the fact that EDU's are done by the property class code. He also stated that with the structure and formula that they have plugged the Village's budget numbers into the fixed costs would be \$214.56 annually for water and \$246.24 annually for sewer. He also stated that the variable rate would be \$2.63/1,000 gallons for water and \$3.02/1,000 gallons for sewer.

Eleanor Rosenthal of 6 Chestnut Street stated that a long time ago the water, sewer and trash was part of the general taxes and not split out like it is now. She stated that she feels that everything should be included in the tax structure rather than broken out. Carrie Tuttle of DANC stated that it is possible to do that for the fixed costs but not the variable costs. She stated that some towns and villages do put the fixed costs on taxes as a special district fee. Abby Lee asked how that would work for a property that is tax exempt. Carrie stated that because it is a special district fee the property would get a tax bill with just that amount on it that they would have to pay.

Xiang Chen of 22 Circle Drive stated that he would assume next year's water usage would remain about the same as this year and wondered if the new system would make bills go up or down. He questioned who would pay more, who would pay less and who would break even. Manasseh stated that the new system of billing with EDU's would be 70% for fixed costs and 30% for variable costs.

Selma Foster asked about the people that have two in their households and never use more than the minimum bill but leave the area for six months out of the year. Manasseh stated that they would still pay the fixed costs regardless.

Pamela March, 18 Garden Street stated that she uses very little water, is very conservative and recycles her water and has tried for years to keep her water bill low.

Ruth Collins of 7 State Street also voiced her concern about the new billing system and her bills going up.

Trustee Sheehan stated that the water is there for the resident's use just like the Police and Fire Departments. You may not use the Police or Fire but there is a cost for them to be there.

Hearing no further public comments, the Mayor declared the hearing closed at 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori S. Queor
Village Clerk