

**TOWN OF KIRKWOOD
PUBLIC HEARING**

November 26, 2019

A public hearing regarding the adoption of a Local Law of the Town of Kirkwood for the year 2019 entitled "A Local Law Amending Certain Sections of the Sewer Rents Local Law" for the purpose of revising Section B. regarding certain water rates, was held on November 26, 2019 at 6:20 PM at the Joseph A. Griffin Town Hall with Supervisor Gordon Kniffen presiding.

Present: Supervisor Gordon Kniffen
Councilman Robert Weingartner
Councilman Lewis Grubham
Councilwoman Linda Yonchuk
Councilman William Diffendorf, Jr.

Also Present: Robert McKertich, Attorney
Gayle Diffendorf, Town Clerk
John A. Finch Jr., DPW Commissioner
James Smith, Budget Officer

Supervisor Kniffen explained this amends the Sewer Rents Local Law as follows:

Section 4, B,1. For property located in the district the sewer rent shall be \$6.15 per 100 cubic feet of water usage billed for each one-third of a year on the first day of January, May and September commencing with water consumed January 1, 2020.

Section 4, B,6. Provisions Relative to Properties Not Served by a Town Water District. In the absence of a metered water supply, single family residences which opt not to install a sewer meter device as provided in paragraph 5 above will be charged a flat rate of \$113 for each four month period effective for flow commencing January 1, 2020.

In regard to why we're raising the sewer rents, Supervisor Kniffen said it's been in the paper and problems with the sewage treatment plant that's owned by Johnson City and Binghamton have been going on for years. For years I think they've been putting band aids on it and finally they decided to fix it permanently. It should have been done years ago. The expenses add up and so while we're talking about \$6.15, I think in the next few years we think it may be in the \$8.00 range before we're done. We are an outside user, and the outside users have to share in whatever the costs are. We are upset and have had several meetings with the Mayors of both Johnson City and Binghamton and some members of the sewage Board, expressing our concerns, but at this point it is what it is.

Mr. Smith said I attended a meeting on Old Vestal Road and they won't give us, even now, what our estimated rate is. I tried to compute it and feed it back to them, questioning if I'm in the ballpark and I got an unofficial that it looks OK. It's frustrating not to get the estimated voucher that we have to pay January 1st. Even when we budget in the fall with water and sewer as late as we do, Frito Lay, being a member of Pepsico, they're accustomed to budgeting for 2020 back in the summer. They need to know ahead of time because they have to go through a lot more. They ask for our best estimate and it's a challenge.

Supervisor Kniffen said we extended the water and sewer districts to the Bell School area and Colesville Road in the late 1990s. When we were presenting it at Bell School at that time the rate for 100 cubic feet was \$1.20 and now we're talking over \$6.00 and growing.

Supervisor Kniffen opened the hearing to public comments. Hearing none, he closed the hearing at 6:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gayle M. Diffendorf
Town Clerk