



TOWN OF LEDYARD

Water Pollution Control Authority

Meeting Minutes

741 Colonel Ledyard Highway
Ledyard, Connecticut 06339

Chairman
Ed Lynch

Public Hearing - Water Rate Increase

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

6:00 PM

Council Chambers - Hybrid

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Public Hearing Meeting was called to order by Chairman Lynch at 6:00 p.m.

II. PROCEDURE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

III. CALL OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

IV. PRESENTATION

1. Proposed 5% Water Rate Increase.

Chairman Lynch started the presentation by stating there is a proposed five percent increase to the water rate due to two factors. The first is Groton Utilities will impose a five percent increase to the raw water cost starting on October 1, 2024, the WPCA is unable to absorb these increases. The second factor is that the WPCA never budgeted for contingencies. The Department of Health mandated that all Water Utilities companies check for lead. There are presently eleven unknown services in Ledyard that need to be checked because of lack of documentation. There is no budget in place to pay for the lead testing services. Local towns such as Groton City and New London are receiving grant money to help pay for lead testing. Even though the services in question are believed to be using plastic piping there could still be a small lead insert that connects the meter to the house. If the lead piping is less than 20" it can be pulled and replaced with another material.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Please limit to three minutes.

Eric Treaster, 10 Huntington Way, expressed concerns about the unintended consequences of a rate increase. His first concern is customers who use no water because their house is vacant are charged the same monthly rate as a home with a family of four using 3,000 of water, Mr. Treaster said it doesn't seem quite right. He added that the rate structure "tends to penalize large families at the expense of small families". Mr. Treaster said raising the rates of water has unintended consequences such as lowering values of homes or discouraging people from moving into Ledyard. He asked what the checks and balances are for Groton Utilities, can they charge whatever they want? Is there a mechanism in place when GU raises its rates and Ledyard can't afford it? Ideally Mr. Treaster would like charges to be based only on numbers of gallons used.

Chairman Lynch said that the Authority is planning on working on a new rate structure, possibly next year. Mr. Treaster had two questions, first how much capacity is in the new sewer line coming into Ledyard Center, will it support 100, 200 or 500 units? Secondly, could each unit be individually metered, he believed it would be a much fairer way to charge customers, he would like this idea to be considered.

Kevin Blacker, 11 Church Street, Noank, renter of farmland Shewville Road. Mr. Blacker inquired about the dollar value of water that is dumped each year through flushing. Chairman Lynch said he doesn't have the number but could get it, it is several million gallons of water and it's metered. Flushing is required by the Department of Health. Mr. Blacker recommended finding out the dollar value of the water that is flushed and looking to eliminate waste by engineering the water system. He suggested that the WPCA investigate ways to recuperate the losses, such as selling flushed water as pool water or for farm usage, (especially during drought times). He also suggested that the WPCA look at what assets that aren't being used by the Town that could be sold to raise revenue.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The Public Hearing Meeting was adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

DISCLAIMER: Although we try to be timely and accurate these are not official records of the Town.