



Bruce Vogel &lt;bruce@plumislandcoffee.com&gt;

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**Fwd: Water and Sewer Commission Rates**

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**Owen Smith** <osmith87@gmail.com>  
To: Bruce Vogel <bruce@vogelatlarge.com>

Thu, Jun 9, 2022 at 4:06 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Owen Smith** <osmith87@gmail.com>  
Date: Tue, Jun 7, 2022 at 2:59 PM  
Subject: Re: Water and Sewer Commission Rates  
To: Roger & Donna <jones137@comcast.net>  
Cc: Sean Reardon <SRearon@cityofnewburyport.com>, Sandy Friede (sandyfriede@comcast.net) <Sandyfriede@comcast.net>, William Creelman <Creelmanw@gmail.com>, Andrew Levine <ALevine@cityofnewburyport.com>, Julie Spurrknight <JSpurrknight@cityofnewburyport.com>, Anthony Furnari <AFurnari@cityofnewburyport.com>, Jamie Tuccolo <JTuccolo@cityofnewburyport.com>

We all serve at the mayor's pleasure and we are appointed as such. However, it is my belief that the Water and Sewer Commission is empowered by the enabling legislation to set their own rates and choose how to expend funds from the enterprise funds.

With that said, I think it would be proper for the commission to vote on reconsidering it's recommended rate. We do have a meeting next Wednesday.

The Indian Hill design proposal came in less than expected. That's good news, but that proposal won't get us a final design, so additional design work will need to be completed. Those costs are unknown at this time.

We also have other projects to consider to address our short term vulnerabilities. Those should be considered if we have available funds.

On Tue, Jun 7, 2022, 14:27 Roger & Donna <jones137@comcast.net> wrote:

Mr. Mayor,

Thank you for attending our meeting and for getting back to us with your decision on the rates. It makes sense and moves us forward for the future.

Roger,  
Commission Chair

Sent from my iPad

On Jun 7, 2022, at 2:13 PM, Sean Reardon <SRearon@cityofnewburyport.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon Water and Sewer Commission,

I first want to thank you all for your hard work on the commission. I enjoyed attending your last meeting and discussing where the city currently is with water and sewer rates. It was a great discussion and with so many capital projects on the horizon an important one. I've decided to put forward to the City Council Julie's recommendation of raising the water rate 9% using \$100K in retained earnings and a 0% increase in sewer using \$300K in retained earnings. I know you were hesitant to use water retained earnings but looking at this long term the city feels this is the most prudent way to proceed. This way we can continue to move forward with getting these capital projects shovel ready and we also have the water meter project that hopefully will start next year. Another important detail we just learned was the Indian Hill

water line design fee just came back in at \$265K and not the \$450K we allocated in the CIP. We are talking to DPS about lowering the amount. Rates are going to have to increase over the next several years and I believe this is where we need to start. Please reach out to my office with any additional questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Sean Reardon

Mayor

City of Newburyport

[60 Pleasant St.](#)

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Owen Smith  
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**5 attachments**

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