

**Selectmen's Workshop**  
**Monday, November 24, 2014**

Chairman Morgan called the workshop to order at 3:00 PM. Present were Selectmen Richard Morgan, Robert Freeman and Franklin Riley, and Ellen White, Town Administrator, who recorded the minutes. Also present was Doug Sargent, Water and Sewer Superintendent.

Sargent discussed the history behind the assessment of user fees to the Town Hall and Elementary School. He further informed the Board that the fee assessment was not related to the payback of reserve funds spent for the purchase of a new truck. Morgan questioned where the money came from to pay back the reserve fund. Sargent answered that they cut back expenses to pay it back in the same year.

Sargent stated that the two hydrants on the Town Hall property and water access at Grant Hill Cemetery are not metered.

A proposal to waive base rates on all facilities except Town Hall resulting in a reduction of \$4,196/year was discussed, but not agreed upon.

Morgan and Riley both spoke on their opposition to the taxpayers underwriting the expense of operating the water and sewer system. Discussion ensued keeping the rates bearable to the users.

Freeman questioned whether the waste water facility is available for out of town use. Sargent explained that it is used only by Ossipee per an ordinance in place.

Riley stated that the system should be user supported. The Town is paying the water bond and relieving the burden of expense to operate through the user fees assessed to the town and separately to the school. Morgan stated that he cannot continue to support paying \$25,000/year to support the function of the Water and Sewer Department in order to not increase the user fees.

Freeman stated that the taxpayers are paying for the system through the Town tax, Precinct tax and School tax.

Discussion took place on the collection of fees, lien for non-payment instead of shut-off, and the payment in full to the Water and Sewer Department that takes place regardless of collection.

Sargent suggested a review of the rates with an update taking place mid-summer. Morgan stated that it is not realistic to wait.

The condition of the system and the plan for capital reserve funds was discussed.

Riley suggested a warrant article to show that the system cannot sustain alone.

Following further discussion, a joint meeting with the Water and Sewer Commissioners will be scheduled for next week.

Sargent was dismissed at 3:45 PM. Elaine Sherman, Finance Manager, entered for discussion on the health insurance deduction.

White stated that employees hired after January 1, 2014 are subject to a 10% contribution for their health insurance. Currently the deduction is taken out the first week of each month. Discussion took place on whether the deduction could be taken out on a weekly basis rather than once per month. Options discussed included allowing an opt-in option for weekly deduction during the open enrollment period as well as pros and cons of allowing the option.

Being no further input, the workshop was adjourned.

Adjourned at 3:48 PM.

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Richard H. Morgan, Chairman

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Robert C. Freeman

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Franklin R. Riley

To be approved 12/1/2014