

## JUNE 10, 2013 – SPECIAL WORK SESSION MEETING

*A Special Work Session of the Town of Dickinson Town Board, for the purpose of the Town Board to review the Binghamton Johnson City Joint Sewage Treatment (BJCJST) bill and revised Sewage Treatment sewer rates.*

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Michael A. Marinaccio on Monday, June 10, 2013 at 5:06 PM in the Town Hall 531 Old Front St., Binghamton, NY.

The members of the Town Board present were:

**Michael A. Marinaccio, Supervisor**

**Danny F. Morabito, Councilman**

**Thomas J. Burns, Councilman**

**Sharon M. Exley, Councilwoman**

**Stephen M. Gardner, Councilman**

Also attending:

**Oliver N. Blaise III, Esq., Town Attorney**

**Wanda Broczkowski, Deputy Town Clerk**

Supervisor Marinaccio presented what the surrounding municipalities' current and proposed sewer rates for Town of Kirkwood, Town of Chenango, Town of Binghamton, and Village of Port Dickinson. Town of Chenango and the Village of Endicott have their own Sewage Treatment Plant.

Mr. Marinaccio asked Beverly Wike, who handled the billing in the water department, to walk us through the numbers. Danny Miller of the water department suggested we go from the current rate of \$5.58 to \$6.87 per cubic foot. This rate would only give us \$175,000 for the year towards the \$200,000 which unfortunately does not cover the shortage. Instead a rate of \$7.50 per cubic foot would give us \$260,000 for the year, and provide a cushion for future issues with the **BJCJST**.

- Conduct a 'special' reading beginning July 11<sup>th</sup> which encompasses a 2.5 month period billed at the old rate of \$5.58.
- Conduct a 2<sup>nd</sup> 'special' reading beginning September 2<sup>nd</sup>, to activate the proposed quarterly billing cycle at the new \$6.87 rate.
- Quarterly schedule: December/March/June/September. We should steer away from reading during the heavy snow month because of where the outside meters are located.

Upon further discussion of the ongoing issues and concerns at the **BJCJST** facility were:

- How will we have enough money to pay/borrow money if we have to?
- If you don't raise it higher now, then what are the consequences?
- **BJCJST** will wait on.
- Supervisor Marinaccio goes on record and doesn't feel will ever get a credit **once** the **FEMA** money is received by **BJCJST**.
- More still needs to be done at the facility.
- Councilman Morabito proposed we add a one-time charge of our own as \$100.00 Maintenance fee onto each household. We could also investigate taking some of the Town of Dickinson and move them into the Chenango sewer treatment system.

- How do we react to the \$200,000 bill?
- How does this affect our tax cap?
- 2014 come up with O & M charge instead.
- Supervisor Marinaccio suggest we talk to Jim Smith our auditor.
- Don't think we can do an O & M charge. How will it affect the tax cap?
- Attorney Blaise concern is to not call it O & M. Label it as a flat rate plus charge.

We have to determine a rate tonight in order for Attorney Blaise to prepare the Public Hearing notice and for it to appear in the legal section of the **Press and Sun Bulletin** by the end of June for the July 8th Work Session and Regular Meeting at the Public Hearing.

Councilman Morabito felt that ethically we need to understand what all the expenses are before we pass this on to the residents. It is implausible the **BJCJST** provides no math or explanation of the dollar amount. The City of Binghamton has it the outside users with the broken wall repair. Money must be obligated. In retrospect, The City of Binghamton should have bonded it. There is no town that can take them on to and to request the comptroller to provide responsibility will not ever happen.

**Ron Lake reminds us these things still need to be done at the facility:**

- Go long term to get out of situation
- \$5 million for reconstruction of broken wall.
- The Susquehanna & Chesapeake water treatment needs to be done.
- It should be noted that Binghamton is out of Bonding Power.

**Supervisor Marinaccio requested the board's position and recommendations:**

- Councilman Gardner - recommendation to raise to \$7.50
- Councilman Burns - recommendation to raise \$7.50 and cushion
- Councilman Morabito - recommendation to raise \$7.50
- Councilwoman Exley - recommendation to raise \$7.50 and secure the long term

**Supervisor Marinaccio proposed the final numbers for the sewer rate amount to be presented at this evening e meeting as:**

- Raise it from \$.55.58 to \$7.50
- Move to quarterly billing.
- If there is a \$100K emergency situation we can bond it.
- We need to send a letter to explain to the residents what we're doing. Note: The cost would be over \$1K for a mailing to 1100 residents, in addition to the 'special' billings we need to conduct.

On motion by Councilman Morabito and seconded by Councilman Burns the special work session was adjourned at 5:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

**Wanda R. Broczkowski**  
Town Clerk