

Kittery Water District – Board of Trustees
Public Hearing Rate Increase
December 20, 2021 – 7:00 PM (via Zoom)
Minutes

Call To Order: President Perry called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll Call: Present: President Perry
Treasurer Golter
Trustee Pelkey
Trustee Gray
Excused: Secretary O’Connell
Staff Present: Superintendent Rogers
Office Manager Johnson
Others Present: 1 Staff and 5 members of the public

President Perry explained the purpose of tonight’s hearing is to provide information pertaining to the rate increase of the Kittery Water District and allow customers and the public advocate to testify and ask questions. This hearing is being held pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. Section 6104 and Section 7 (B) (3) of Chapter 120 of the Maine Public Utilities Commission. (PUC Regulations) Notice of the public hearing was published in the Portsmouth Herald and notices were mailed to each customer of the district.

After taking all comments and questions from tonight’s hearing, the district will consider all comments and will, within 30 days, be filing a formal rate schedule with the Maine Public utilities Commission. The formal rate filing by the District maybe investigated by the Public utilities Commission in accordance with 35-A M.R.S.A. Section 6104. The Maine Public Utilities Commission has taken no position and has made no determination concerning the proposed rate increase. Pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. Section (3), a customer has the right to request additional information relating to the present and proposed rates from the District, the right to an open and fair hearing, and the right to assistance from the Public Advocate. Customers also have the right under 35-A M.R.S.A. Sections (3,4,7 and 8) to petition the Maine Public Utilities Commission to suspend and investigate the District’s rates pursuant to 35-A M.R.S.A. section 310 if, on or before January 19, 2022, 15% of customers or 1,000 customers, whichever is less, file with the Kittery Water District Office Manager and with the Maine Public Utilities Commission c/o Administrative Director, State House Station #18, Augusta, Maine 04333-0018, a petition or petitions demanding review by the PUC of the proposed rate changes. Signatures on the petition filed pursuant to Section 7 are invalid unless accompanied by the printed names and addresses of the petition signers. Upon request the District will provide customers with the petition forms that include space for the signatures and the printed names and addresses of the signers.

President Perry then opened the meeting to comments and questions.

Suzanne Sayer, Prince Avenue, Kittery asked if the Public Advocate or any representative from the PNSY is on this meeting. Superintendent Rogers advised they are not. She also questioned what the Cost-of-Living adjustment would be back to 2018. Superintendent Rogers advised he hasn’t tracked the COLA back to 2018 but last year’s COLA alone was 5.9%. So the proposed increase is far below what the COLA would be back to 2018.

Linda Cheatham, 144 Pepperrell Road, Kittery Point, questioned when was the last rate increase. Superintendent Rogers explained the last rate increase was in 2018 and that was for the PNSY only. For the commercial and residential customers the last rate increase was in 2017. In 2017 the rate increase to the PNSY was 9% and the rate to all other customers was 3%.

President Perry declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:11 PM.