

Redwood Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

March 11, 2019

The meeting of March 11, 2019 was held at the Alexandria Town Hall. It opened at 10:00 a.m. Present was Linda Hartman and Dee Brown. Also present were John Stine and Mike Fayette, Town Board members. Absent was Gene Kring and Rick Lopez.

The meeting began with a brief discussion of the minutes of the previous meeting. Mike Fayette asked if the committee had reviewed the minutes and if they had any comments/corrections/additions. The committee was satisfied with the minutes. Mike Fayette will have the minutes posted to the Town's website.

The committee then discussed the Pam Nelson sewer grievance. The committee, based on information found on the tax maps, had previously determined that the sewer charge would be 1.25 EDU's. This decision was based the tax map indicating that the property had been subdivided into three lots even though there was only a single tax map parcel. Two of the lots had frontage onto Cottage Hill Road. The third parcel had no road frontage. The two lots with road frontage met current zoning requirements to develop into a residential parcel. The parcel with no road frontage did not meet current zoning requirements. One of the lots with road frontage has a house on it, the other lot is vacant. Therefore, the committee decided that 1.25 EDU's would be the proper charge. The Town Board agreed with the committee's recommendation. After receiving this decision from the Town Board, Ms. Nelson contacted the Town to dispute this decision. Mike Fayette spoke with the Town Assessor, Shookie Millett, and with the Jefferson County Real Property Office regarding this property. After researching back five (5) previous owners of this property, it was determined that the information on the tax map for this property was incorrect. It is only a single piece of property. The Jefferson County Real Property Office will remove this information from this property as part of the next printing of the tax maps. Ms. Nelson was contacted by the Town and her excess sewer charges were remitted to her.

The committee then discussed the EDU charges for apartments. At a previous committee meeting this topic was discussed and it was decided to keep the apartment EDU charge at 1. However, at a subsequent Town Board meeting, the Town Board voted to return the apartment EDU charge to its previous $\frac{3}{4}$ EDU amount and revisit this decision as part of the annual review of the Redwood Sewer District. The committee was concerned as to the financial impact this decision would have on the District. Both John and Mike assured the committee that the Town Board was prepared to address this issue should it become necessary.

The committee then discussed an attachment to next quarters' sewer bill. They would like to see it contain an explanation as to how the sewer bill went from \$450/EDU to \$650/EDU. The committee understood why the increase was necessary but felt that information regarding

the increase wasn't adequately forwarded to Redwood Sewer District costumers. The committee would also like to see, as part of this attachment, a list of the various EDU categories and charges. They thought this information would also be useful to sewer customers. The would also like to see a mention of the committee and a description of the committee's role (i.e. review sewer grievances, review and suggest changes to the sewer ordinance, etc.). Lastly, the committee would like to see included with the next sewer bill a list of "do's and don'ts". When the sewer district was first formed, a list of "do's and don'ts" were sent out to the sewer district customers. That was over twenty years ago and there are current customers who were not customers at that time and do not realize that some of the things they are doing are detrimental to the sewer system.

The committee concluded the meeting by deciding that the next section of the Ordinance they would begin to review was Article IV, Section 3. This section involves charges to sewer customers whose actions cause an increase in the cost of operating or maintaining the sewer system or whose action cause the replacement of elements of the sewer system (i.e. pumps). The committee felt that there should be a list of charges to be assessed against sewer customers who adversely impact the sewer system. Currently, all sewer district customers shoulder the financial burden of those customers whose actions adversely impact the sewer district.

The meeting concluded at 11:00 a.m.

Job description or mission statement for the Redwood Sewer District Committee:

- * The committee is a group of four property owners from the Redwood sewer district.
- * The meetings are for discussion and recommendations & are not open to the public.
- * They are appointed by the town supervisor.
- * They are volunteers.
- * Their role as of November 2018 is to review grievances that citizens send in regarding their sewer bill. The committee makes a recommendation using the ordinances of the Town (??? and the dimensions of the properties according to the zoning officer???) The committee sends the recommendations back to the town board or the town lawyer who then make a final decision.
- * Beginning in 2019 the committee will meet to begin to go over the ordinances. The ordinances are the guide or code that must be applied appropriately. However, some of the language is vague and the committee desires to work on clarifying these sentences. The final decision still rests with the town board after review by the town attorney as the ordinances are a legal document.