

Town of Edgecomb Select Board
MINUTES
Dec. 2, 2019, 6:00 PM

Attendees:

Jack Sarmanian, Ted Hugger, Mike Smith – Select Board Members
Barbara Brennan – Recording Secretary

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of 11/18 Minutes
Mike motion to approve minutes; Ted second. Approved 3-0
3. Discussion of Town Forum on Dec. 7
 - Mike explained that this is an opportunity to invite town feedback on three subjects: whether to create an administrative position; whether to sub-out plowing and maintenance or create a town crew; and how to improve the Town Hall building to better accommodate all. He encourages town residents to attend, bring their ideas, “dream a bit” about how the Town can be its best for the next quarter of a century.
4. Old Business
 - Select Board signed a welcome letter to be sent to Julia Latter, new BBH Town Manager.
 - Scott Griffin is waiting for a third quote on repairing the damage to the salt shed. We must move soon on the repairs before the stockpile freezes.
 - Mike will bring samples of Maine Bicentennial flags to an upcoming meeting to decide which to purchase.
 - Ted said Claudia and Fran check and audit all warrants; the following Warrants were approved as presented:
 1. TIF 201, 202
 2. Wastewater 101, 102, 103, 104, 105
 3. General 1-9
5. New Business (None)
6. Warrants
Warrant #12
 - School Payroll \$35,955.44
 - School Payables 165,191.50
 - TOTAL \$220,505.30Ted motion to approve; Mike second; Approved 3-0.
7. Public Comment
 - Roy Potter wants to know what to do with old Engine 3. It has no sale value. The suggestion is to find room in the station to store it while they salvage usable parts.
 - Bill Witzell will follow up at the next meeting with information about the data plan he will use for his new communication device.
 - Mike mentioned there are 10 applicants for the Charlie Brown Tree Contest.
8. Adjourn – 6:28 PM

Town of Edgecomb

PUBLIC HEARING

Wastewater Rate Increase

December 2, 2019

6:30 PM

Attendees: Jack Sarmanian, Ted Hugger, Mike Smith, Barbara Brennan, Janet Blevins, Roy Potter, Bill Witzell, Chris Collette (Wiscasset Water District), Jeff Densky (SHV resident), Mike Hynes (SHV resident and president of the SHVCA), 2 other SHVCA residents

David Beauchamp of Ted Berry Company was invited to attend this meeting but canceled because of the snowy weather.

Jack opened the Public Hearing by introducing Chris Cossette as a resource during the hearing. Jack stated that over the past summer, the Town of Wiscasset increased the rate it charges for wastewater. A 2005 agreement between Edgecomb and Wiscasset states that Edgecomb users would pay the same usage fees as Wiscasset residents. Edgecomb ratepayers are being charged an additional 14%, from \$27.36 to \$31.20 per 300 cubic feet. Since the increase came into effect, Edgecomb has been funding it at a cost of about \$600 per month. The purpose of this hearing is to have input from residents.

Jeff Densky of Sheepscot Harbor Village questioned why the rates have increased, stating that the residents of SHVCA pay to maintain the system. He wondered if the Town could help residents pay for maintenance. Other residents responded that all homeowners must pay to maintain their septic systems and that the users of various utilities should pay for the usage. Jack maintained that a public entity (the Town) cannot pay for private expenses.

Residents questioned the use of Edgecomb's reserve account created for the sewer system (about \$114,000). Jack responded these funds are used for regular maintenance (about \$25,000 every five years) and as a reserve in case there needs to be a repair.

Mike Hynes requested that the Town try to avoid additional surcharges to Wiscasset's rate increase. He asked if the reserve account might generate enough income to offset the surcharge.

The Select Board will set the rates at their next meeting on Dec. 16.

The Public Hearing adjourned at 6:55.