

TOWN OF BINGHAMTON
TOWN BOARD INFORMATIONAL MEETING
Held at: TOB Community Center, 1905 Coleman Rd., Binghamton, NY 13903
Proposed Purchase of 37 Water Meters for 37 Outside Users
July 30, 2020

PRESENT AT MEETING:

R. Rounds, Supervisor
M. Bensley, Councilperson
V. Conklin, Town Clerk
R. Rolston, Highway Superintendent

N. Pappas, Water/Sewer Billing Clerk
P. Wagner, Deputy Highway Superintendent
6 Guests at 6:00 p.m.-6:23 p.m. Session
8 Guests at 7:00 p.m.-7:27 p.m. Session

PURPOSE OF MEETING:

6:00 p.m. Session - The purpose of the informational meeting is to provide information to residents on the proposed purchase of 37 water meters for 37 outside users. Supervisor Rounds explained that in the Town of Binghamton there are 37 households that the Town refers to as outside users, and that outsider users are people that are hooked up to sewer, but still have their water on a well. Those users are charged a flat rate and billed quarterly. The Town is charged a flat rate from the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant because there is no way for them to get a direct amount of the outside users' usage as there are no meters on their homes. There may be some confusion because a number of years ago the Town was asking users if they had City water they could hook up to. At that point, the Town was requiring the users, before the Town would give them a meter, to hook up to City water. Park Terrace area residents already have City water that they can hook up to, if they so desire. The outside users are paying a lot of money quarterly. If the outside users are metered, they would then be charged for their actual sewer usage. Currently, the outside users are being charged per bedroom in their home. At this time, a one-bedroom house is being charged \$118.06; two bedrooms - \$236.11; three bedrooms - \$314.81; 4 bedrooms - \$373.84, and five bedrooms - \$432.87 per quarter. The Town is not asking the outside users to hook up to water, as they have operating wells. The Town will provide the outsider users with a meter free of charge, but it is the outside users' responsibility to have the meter installed by a plumber. The average cost of the installation of the meter is approximately \$350 to \$400, and should be installed by a plumber. Directions for installation will be provided with the meter. After installation, the meter will be inspected by the Water/Sewer Department. After inspection, the outside users will be charged for actual usage. Meters are electronically read from outside the home. The savings can be in the neighborhood of 50%, depending on how many people live in the home. In most cases, the savings will pay for the installation of the meter in a year's time. Outside users are not required to have a meter, but will stay on the flat rate. There will be a public hearing in September regarding the new, increased rates. The new billing rates will not be implemented until the February 2021 billing cycle, including flat rates. Metered homes will see an increase in rates, and flat rates may be increased anywhere between 15% and 20%. The 2021 bills from the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant are based on the Town's 2020 usage. The cost for the Town of purchasing the meters is approximately \$450 per meter.

To sign up to get a meter, outside users should call Nadine Pappas at the Water/Sewer Department. Questions were asked and answered.

7:00 p.m. Session - The purpose of the informational meeting was to provide information to residents on the proposed purchase of 37 water meters for 37 outside users. Supervisor Rounds explained that in the Town of Binghamton there are 37 households that the Town refers to as outside users, and that outsider users are people that are hooked up to sewer, but still have their water on a well. Currently, the Town receives a \$101,000 quarterly bill from the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant. In 2020, the Town is currently seeing an approximate \$50,000 shortfall in funds for sewer. There will be a public hearing in September regarding the new, increased rates. The new billing rates will not be implemented until the February 2021 billing cycle, including flat rates. Metered homes will see an increase in rates, and flat rates may be increased anywhere between 15% and 20%. The 2021 bills from the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant are based on the Town's 2020 usage. The Parkwood Subdivision has a separate sewer system, as it is not hooked up to the City sewer system. The ten homes in the Parkwood Subdivision are charged the flat rate fee of \$195 per quarter. The rates for the Parkwood subdivision may be changed to the bedroom rates, which are as follows: a one-bedroom house is being charged \$118.06; two bedrooms - \$236.11; three bedrooms - \$314.81; 4 bedrooms - \$373.84, and five bedrooms - \$432.87 per quarter. The Town is charged a flat rate from the Joint Sewage Treatment Plant because there is no way for them to get a direct amount of the outside users' usage as there are no meters on their homes. If the outside users are metered, they would then be charged for their actual sewer usage. The Town is not asking the outside users to hook up to water, as they have operating wells. The Town will provide the outsider users with a meter free of charge, but it is the outside users' responsibility to have the meter installed by a plumber. The average cost of the installation of the meter is approximately \$350 to \$400, and should be installed by a plumber. Directions for installation will be provided with the meter. After installation, the meter will be inspected by the Water/Sewer Department. After inspection, the outside users will be charged for actual usage. Meters are electronically read from outside the home. The savings can be in the neighborhood of 50%, depending on how many people live in the home. In most cases, the savings will pay for the installation of the meter in a year's time. Outside users are not required to have a meter, but will stay on the flat rate. The cost for the Town of purchasing the meters is approximately \$450 per meter. All users are in a Consolidated Sewer District, which pays for repairs for the Parkwood Subdivision sewer system. The Parkwood Subdivision tank does have be pumped out and taken somewhere. Consequently, the Town does incur a fee for pumping out the waste. There is also environmental testing by the DEC. Plus, the Town mows the leach fields. Broome County does charge a sewer fee for sewer use on the outside users' tax bill. That fee goes into the Consolidated Sewer District fund to help pay for maintenance, infrastructure, pipelining, storm drain damage, etc. The only benefit for the Town to have all outside users metered will be to make the bookkeeping easier. The Town's objective is to invest in the 37 outside users to give them an opportunity to pay for actual usage. To sign up to get a meter, outside users should call Nadine Pappas at the Water/Sewer Department. Questions were asked and answered.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Vickie A. Conklin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vickie A. Conklin
Town Clerk