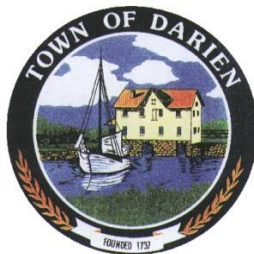


TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
2 RENSRAW ROAD - TOWN HALL
DARIEN, CT 06820-5397
TELEPHONE (203) 656-7382



CRAIG J. FLAHERTY, P.E., CHAIRMAN
ROBERT HILL, VICE CHAIRMAN
M. REESE HUTCHISON III, SECRETARY
SUSAN R. CAMERON
PETER VAN WINKLE, ESQ.

**TOWN OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION
PUBLIC HEARING & REGUALR MEETING MINUTES,
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5TH 2023, 4:30 PM – 7:00 PM
IN PERSON, ROOM 206, 2 RENSRAW ROAD-TOWN HALL, DARIEN, CT 06820
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION VIA EMAIL OR IN PERSON**

ATTENDANCE: Craig Flaherty, P.E. Chairman
Robert Hill, Vice-Chair
Reese Hutchison, Secretary
Susan Cameron
Peter Van Winkle

STAFF: Edward L. Gentile Jr. P.E. Director of Public Works
Darren Oustafine, P.E. Assistant Director of Public Works

OTHER: Rolf Obin

PUBLIC HEARING

1. CALL TO ORDER-OPEN PUBLIC HEARING.

Chairman Flaherty called the Public Hearing to order at 4:30 P.M. A quorum was present.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION TO GO INTO THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. SEWER USER FEES. ARTICLE XI, SANITARY SEWER REGULATIONS, SECTION 1000-6. PROPOSED SUB SECTION AMENDMENTS IN RELEVANT PART ARE:

1. 6-2.1 Effective October 1, 2023, the standard charge shall be at a rate of up to \$7.09 per hundred cubic feet of water.

6-3.1 Effective October 1, 2023, the minimum service charge shall be up to \$275.51 per annum.

2. 1000-3A – Sewer Connection Fees and Supplemental Charges, proposed residential charges of \$750 per bedroom for connection to sewer system.

3. Addition of peer review costs associated with new developments.

Chairman Flaherty read the legal notice:

The Town of Darien Sewer Commission will conduct a Public Hearing on Tuesday September 5th 2023 at 4:30 PM in Room 206 of the Darien Town Hall for the purpose of affording property owners and residents within the Town of Darien, and opportunity to be heard concerning proposed amendments to the Darien Code of Ordinance, Appendix C, Administrative Regulations. Public Participation is available in person or via email at dariensc@darienct.gov by 4:00 PM on September 5th 2023, or in person.

Sewer user Fees. Article XI, Sanitary Sewer Regulations, Section 1000-6. Proposed sub section amendments in relevant part are:

1. 6-2.1 Effective October 1, 2023, the standard charge shall be at a rate of up to \$7.09 per hundred cubic feet of water.

6-3.1 Effective October 1, 2023, the minimum service charge shall be up to \$275.51 per annum.

2. 1000-3A – Sewer Connection Fees and Supplemental Charges, proposed residential charges of \$750 per bedroom for connection to sewer system.

3. Addition of peer review costs associated with new developments.

All Members of the public are invited to participate and will be given an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed changes.

4. CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING TO FURTHER TESTIMONY.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION TO CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REGULAR MEETING

1. CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Flaherty called the Special Meeting to order at 4:42 P.M. A quorum was present.

2. APPROVAL OF DARIEN SEWER COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES OF AUGUST 8th, 2023.
DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

3. SETTING OF SEWER USER FEE. DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

Commission held a meeting August 8th to discuss possible increase of rate. Legal Notice was advertised in the newspaper/online/ Town Clerk's office.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION TO RAISE THE SEWER RATE TO 7.06 A 2.62 % INCREASE WITH A MINIMUM RATE CHARGE OF \$274.34**

**** MR. VAN WINKLE SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. SEWER CONNECTION FEE REVISED. DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO MOVE THE CONNECTION FEE UP TO \$750.00 PER BEDROOM NET.**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Staff will write something up and present to commissioners for approval.

5. PEER REVIEW COST. DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT TO TOWN COUNSEL FOR REVIEW.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. SEWER ANALYSIS REVIEW CRITERIA.

**** MR. HILL MADE A MOTION TO PRESENT TO TOWN COUNSEL FOR REVIEW**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL BONDED FUND FOR SEWER REHAB PROJECT (PHASE 3) AND I&I/ SSES (PHASE 2) ***TAKEN OUT OF ORDER***

Mr. Gentile presented the commissioners with past expenditures. Explained what upcoming projects the department has and the expected costs of the projects.

8. TABLE OF APPEALS. (CORBIN & HEIGHTS) DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

Chairman Flaherty recused himself.

The commissioners discussed having a policy in place for these developments so that they are aware of possible new charges. Commission requested generating a letter to discuss the charges.

**** MR. HUTCHISON MADE A MOTION SEND FEDERAL REALTY A LETTER EXPLAINING THE DIFFERENCE OF WHAT WAS OWED AND WHAT WAS PAID.**

**** MS. CAMERON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED 4-1.**

9. SEWER LATERAL REPAIR 15 & 16 STONEWALL LANE, VICINITY OF 51 BUTTON WOOD LANE. DISCUSSION AND ACTION.

Staff was alerted to a potential sewer leak by the owner of the property of 51 Buttonwood Lane. There is a sewer easement in favor of 15 & 16 Stonewall Lane over the property of 51 Buttonwood Lane. In an effort to determine the location and extent of the leak, staff reached out to the owner of the lateral at 16 Stonewall Lane. Unexpectedly, the owner was highly uncooperative and informed staff of the desire to seek counsel before granting permission. Town employees began excavating in the right of way of Buttonwood Road and determined multiple issues with the private line. About 5 years ago, Aquarion replaced water lines that were below the sewer lateral pipe. In one other instance there was damage to another sewer lateral pipe on this Buttonwood Lane and as a part of the waterline replacement project, and sub-standard unpermitted repairs. This damage and repair was found to have taken place on another location of Buttonwood Lane. Aquarion Water Company was notified of the issue at 51 Buttonwood Lane and as of yet has not formerly responded other than to suggest the "time limit" had expired and there was no warrantee. Also, it was determined that somewhere else in the lateral there is a deficiency, defect or clog that will need to be repaired. Staff would like to know how to formally submit the costs for this emergency repair to a private lateral where both a deficiency was noted and evidence of an illegal repair observed

**** MR. VAN WINKLE MADE A MOTION TO ASK TOWN ATTORNEY TO WHOM WE SHOULD SEND THE BILL FOR EFFORTS TO REPAIR THE PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT.

a. PHASE II SANITARY SEWER REHAB (ARCADIS)

Meeting held last week August 31st after which contracts were issued and notice to proceed issued.

Looking to start project in 3 weeks.

b. WOODWAY/HOYT

Took draft easement to town counsel have not heard back yet.

c. 223 LNP-LATERAL LOCATION

Commission asked for tapping sleeve valve photos staff submitted them. Reached out to contractor they have plumber on site to do the work.

11. NEW BUSINESS.

No new business.

12. ADJOURNMENT.

**** MR. VAN WINKLE MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.**

**** MR. HUTCHISON SECONDED THE MOTION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 PM.