MINUTES
PUBLIC HEARING
USER CHARGE
ERIE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NOS. 1-6 & 8
SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

PRESENT: Charles Katra and Courtney Scordato of the Erie County Department of Environment & Planning

Mr. Katra opened the hearing at 10:30 A.M. He then stated the purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed user charge rates for the Erie County Sewer Districts for 2016 and to hear all interested members of the public regarding any concerns over the proposed rates.

Mr. Katra then reviewed the rates as published in the Buffalo News and the official County newspapers. Mr. Katra mentioned the Notice of Public Hearing, a copy of which was read and is attached to these Minutes.

It was explained, by Mr. Katra, how users are surcharged on the basis of flow and pollutant loadings. The charges are more accurately assessed for sewage service to the users of the sewer systems of Erie County Sewer District Nos. 1-6 & 8, Mr. Katra commented. Historical cost data from the appropriate treatment plants is used to estimate the actual cost the Districts will incur for treating high strength or high volume wastewater.

Actual sewage flow may be used if it is materially different from water use and it can be otherwise measured or determined. The burden, however, is on the property owner to justify that water consumption is not a reasonable and cost effective means to describe sewage flow.

Mr. Katra commented further that Residential users in ECSD No. 1, 4 and 5 will be subject to a flat usage charge as shown in the table above (4th row). Non-Residential users in ECSD No. 1,2,3,4 and 5 exceeding 91,250 gallons per year will be subject to an additional flow charge for that amount greater than 91,250 gallons. The rate for this additional flow is shown in the 5th row of the table above. For Erie County Sewer District Nos. 6 & 8 all users are charged based on flow (water use). (Water use is used in lieu of sewage flow unless the property owner(s) can substantiate actual sewage volume.)

With regard to wastehaulers, Erie County Sewer District Nos. 2 and 3 (Southtowns) are the only Districts that accept septage from wastehaulers. The charges for wastehaulers will remain at $60/1000 gallons.

Mr. Katra noted that user charges are collected annually with the regular County Sewer (special) District charges.

The figures will then be adjusted as new data becomes available each Budget Year.

It was then explained by Mr. Katra the next step is for the individual Boards of Mangers to adopt the rates. After this step and subsequent publication in the official County newspapers and the Buffalo News, property owners have 30 days to appeal the adopted schedule of rates and charges to the Erie County Legislature, 92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor, Buffalo, New York.

Mr. Katra asked if anyone else was present to speak for or against adoption of said User Charge Rates.

The effective date of the rates is January 1, 2016.

The Public Hearing closed at 10:45a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Katra
Assistant Deputy Commissioner

CK:cs

Encl.
Cc: M. Salah/0.4.2.User Charge 2016 (w/encl)
0.8.0.Public Hearings, Affid. & Advert. (w/encl)
Boards of Managers 1-6 & 8
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