

# TOWN OF WILTON SEWER DEPARTMENT

## SEWER DEPARTMENT SPECIAL HEARING

December 14, 2017 6:30 PM in the Training Room at Wilton Fire Station

### CASE FOR RATE INCREASE

Wilton Sewer Department has been part of the Milford-Wilton Intermunicipal Wastewater Agreement in which wastewater services are provided to Wilton by the Milford system since April 1981. The agreement was renewed by Milford and Wilton in March of 2015 and will remain in effect for 20 years or until Wilton reaches its reserved capacity, whichever occurs first.

As a user of the Milford facility, Wilton must operate and maintain its waste disposal system in a manner consistent with standards required by Milford, State and Federal authorities. As a user of the Milford facility, Wilton pays its share (14.89%) of Wastewater Treatment Facility and Interceptor costs. Additionally, as circumstances may exist in which capital improvements or changes in Milford's operational infrastructure, or more stringent standards are imposed, Wilton sewer department will bear its share of these costs.

In preparing its 2018 budget, Wilton Sewer Commissioners faced several challenges –

- An anticipated 20%+ increase to Milford's rates passed on to Wilton Sewer customers;
- Maple Street Bond principal payment must be budgeted as an operating expense as there is no bond surplus remaining to apply to principal. Interest has been and will continue to be budgeted as an operating expense;
- Questions have arisen about storing sewer department equipment on town property and whether public works employees may be trained to operate that equipment that force using outside contractors (at an additional cost) to meet those needs;
- Repayment of the \$46,738 loaned to the sewer department by the Town of Wilton;
- Establish a reserve for emergencies; and
- Establish a reserve for necessary improvements to Wilton sewer system infrastructure.

Sewer User fees fund the department, so any rate charged must be sufficient to cover costs at a minimum. Commissioners believe that the proposed rates will allow the department to meet its budget for 2018 and put WSD in a better position to respond to emergencies and plan for the future. The proposed rate is still one of the lowest in the area. Commissioners are committed to providing outstanding service to its customers at a fair and affordable rate for many years to come.

Earlier this year, WSD completed GIS mapping of the current system; consulted with Granite State Rural Water Association to begin to work on a long-range plan; and explored grant opportunities that may be available. WSD generally meets on the second Thursday of each month (at the fire station or town hall courtroom). We invite you to attend these sessions, which are open to the public, to offer input, learn about The 3P's and other ways users can help keep costs down, or check our progress. In the meantime, thank you for attending tonight's public hearing and your continued support of the Wilton Sewer Department.

Respectfully,

Wilton Sewer Commissioners

Chris Carter – Chairman, Tim Mortvedt, Tracey Ewing