

**Anaconda-Deer Lodge County
Sewer Fee Committee Meeting Minutes
4:00 p.m. Thursday, March 16, 2017
Courthouse Jury Room**

Present: CEO Bill Everett, Wayne Wendt, Paul Puccinelli, Steve Hess, Eric Hoiland, Commissioner Kevin Hart

Absent: Karen Courtney

Others Present: Julie Pooley, Clerk of Commission

CEO Bill Everett called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF A CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

CEO Bill Everett moved to appoint Eric Hoiland as Chair of the committee; seconded by Paul Puccinelli.

Motion carried unanimously.

CEO Bill Everett moved to appoint Steve Hess as the Vice-Chair of the committee; seconded by Eric Hoiland.

Motion carried unanimously.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

Ordinance No. 230

CEO Everett wants to ensure that the removal or adjustment of sewer fees is fair and equitable. Eric Hoiland believes the ordinance should define the sewer district, collection of charges, removal and fee adjustments, and should take into consideration new work on the sewer. Updating the ordinance provides a chance to incorporate changes regarding septic pump trucks, update definitions, user classifications, use of the system, and connections.

Commissioner Hart indicated that Ed Janney with DOWL did extensive research regarding fees. He suggested looking at this study.

The committee further suggested installing security cameras and requiring septic pump truck operators to have a business license.

Memo from Previous Planning Director, Doug Clark

Everyone was in agreement that Mr. Clark's memo is on target in terms of setting criteria for equality across the board. Mr. Clark's memo indicates the current sewer ordinance does a good job of outlining the procedure the County must follow to remove sewer fees. However, the ordinance does not set forth criteria or conditions to apply consistently. The memo proposes criteria and conditions based on past experience that will serve the County's interest while at the same time be considered fair for the property owner.

The committee agreed it is in the County's best interest to incentivize progress. However, it needs to be determined how much time is sufficient to make significant progress on a property. Commissioner Hart

indicated that if a property has a water connection and can be used tomorrow the fees do not get removed. If a property has no sewer hook-up, no ability to flush a toilet, no water connection, etc., then a fee should be removed. However, the committee was in agreement that the timeline for review may need to be different for residential and commercial properties and structured differently for metered and flat rate users.

CEO Everett tasked Planning Director, Steve Hess with drafting the amended ordinance to include the following:

1. Removal/adjustment of sewer fees based on units and propose structure for metered vs. flat rate users and residential vs. commercial users
2. Timeframe for review
3. Dump stations; define capacities
4. RV dumping on private property
5. Resolution to set fees
6. Language in ordinance regarding access to property

MISCELLANEOUS

CEO Everett would like Ed Janney to attend the next meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23rd at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Julie K. Pooley, Clerk of Commission

Eric Hoiland, Chair