

**CALL TO ORDER** Mayor Welch called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

**PRESENT** Mayor Welch, Deputy Mayor Eydt, Trustee Conde, Trustee Gibson, Trustee Marasco, Superintendent Wills, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Vazquez

**DISCUSSION**

**Pat Brown of Brown & Company, LLP** presented the following memo to the Village Board of Trustees regarding water rates:

October 22, 2021

To: Mayor Anne Welch and Board of Trustees  
Village of Lewiston

From: Patrick D. Brown, CPA

Subject: Water Rate

I understand the village increased the water rate effective July 1, 2021 by .05 cents (1.4%) to \$3.75 per 100 cubic feet of usage which will equate only to about \$4,800 additional revenue for a year. This rate is not adequate to meet the funds' expenditures.

The water fund expenses have increased on average about \$14,000 per year from 2018-2021 primarily due to Niagara County Water District's ad valorem tax which has increased about 8.2% the past two years or 4.1% per year on average with the largest increase being 5.9% from 2019 to 2020. The Village has no control over the County Water Districts' ad valorem assessment but this is the largest expense in the water fund.

In order to pay the bills and operate the water fund, based on the May 31, 2021 audit, the water rate should be \$3.95 per 100 cubic feet which would be an increase of .20 cents from the present \$3.75 rate per 100 cubic feet. The new rate should take effect with the January 2022.

Like anyone, I don't take rate increases of any kind or in any amount lightly; but to quantify the increase and new rate of \$3.95, the average user would pay an additional \$16 per year or \$4 per quarter. An extremely high user of water, such as a non-residential user, would pay an additional \$80-\$90 per year or \$20.00-\$22.50 per quarter.

Expenses will have to be monitored closely as it is likely annual rate increases will be necessary as expenses increase.

The combined water and sewer rate total would be \$8.74 per 100 cubic feet of consumption which remains well below neighboring Villages.

Further discussion on the matter addressed that chlorine costs have sky rocketed, and this has not yet been factored into the proposed increase. Brown also stated that he has compared rates to surrounding local villages and we are still well below what rates they charge.

**ADJOURN** The meeting was adjourned the meeting at 5:45pm.

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Shannon Fundis, Clerk