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| SDC 10.30.19 |

CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY

**RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_**

**TITLE:** Amend Resolution 21-18 – Confirming User Charges: Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District

**BY:** For Legislative Use Only

**AT THE REQUEST OF:** County Executive George M. Borrello

WHEREAS, in 2018 the Board of Directors of the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District (“the District”) adopted a schedule of user charges for the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of sewage that was confirmed pursuant to Resolution 21-18 of the Chautauqua County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the District has requested that the County Legislature confirm the Districts’ proposed amendment to the user charge schedule to address omitted charges and to provide a mechanism for bill reductions for property owners in the event a verifiable water leak results in the introduction of clean water to the District’s collection system; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the schedule of user charges of the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District adopted by the Board of Directors of the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District as the Administrative Body of such Sewer District and previously confirmed by Resolution 21-18 of the Chautauqua County Legislature, is hereby amended to add new subsections C and D in Section VI, and is confirmed by this County Legislature as follows:

**CHARGES BY THE**

**PORTLAND POMFRET DUNKIRK SEWER DISTRICT**

**SECTION I**

Pursuant to Section 266 of the County Law, there is hereby established and imposed a scale of charges for the collection, conveyance, treatment, and disposal of sewage upon real property served by public sewers.

**SECTION II**

DEFINITIONS

As used herein, the following terms shall mean and include:

A. **District**: The Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District, a county sewer district of the County of Chautauqua organized and existing pursuant to Article 5-A of the County Law of the State of New York.

B. **Administrative Head**: The Administrative Head or body of the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District as established by the Chautauqua County Legislature under Article 5-A of the County Law of the State of New York.

C. **User**: The assessed owner of a parcel of property within the District connected or required by applicable law to be connected to a sewer owned by the District.

**SECTION III**

CHARGE AREAS

Real property within the District shall be classified as follows for the purpose of making charges hereunder.

A. Property served by a collector sewer to which

1. Sewer service from the sewer system of the Van Buren Point Association, Inc. was available prior to 1984.

2. Sewer service from the sewer system formerly owned by the Shore Acres Association, Inc. was available prior to 1984.

B. Property served by a collector sewer which was constructed by the District.

**SECTION IV**

UNITS PER PARCEL

The number of units attributable to each parcel of property served by public sewers within the District shall be determined as follows:

A. A single family dwelling which generates wastewater associated with normal daily activity produced in households, which may include wastewater from bathrooms, lavatories, toilets, kitchens and laundries, shall consist of one unit.

B. Each separate dwelling unit within one building shall consist of one unit.

C. Each site used or improved by means of a concrete pad or otherwise for the location of a mobile home or similar movable structure and having a sewer line extended to said site shall consist of one unit regardless of the presence of a mobile home or similar movable structure upon said prepared site.

D. The unit designation of all other uses shall, at minimum be based on volume and consist of a number rounded to the nearest tenth of a unit, determined by dividing the actual or estimated quarterly water use in gallons by 12,500 gallons provided, however, that each such use shall consist of a minimum of one unit. If quarterly water use is estimated, such estimate shall be based upon the actual quarterly water meter reading of the municipality or water district providing water service to the parcel ending sometime within the three months immediately preceding the billing date as stated in Section V herein, if such reading is available from the municipality at the time of the billing date. The District shall cause water meters to be read periodically as needed for the administration of the scale of charges established herein for all uses embraced by this paragraph. Water used in a manner so that it will not enter the sanitary sewer in conformity with the regulations of the District need not be included in determining actual water use provided it is separately metered. If water use is not metered at the time of the enactment of this ordinance and is not part of a public water distribution system, a water meter shall be installed and maintained by the District and the District shall make a separate charge for the actual cost of the meter and its installation listed separately on a subsequent quarterly sewer charge bill. At the request of the property owner, the actual wastewater may be measured and substituted for metered water use for the purpose of determining the number of units under this paragraph, by a wastewater flow meter installed at the point of discharge into the District's sewer line which is suitable for the measurement of sewage flows and which is approved by the District; said sewage flow meter shall be installed and maintained by the District which shall make a separate charge for the actual cost of the meter and its installation listed separately on a subsequent quarterly sewer charge bill.

E. In the event any user's discharge to the treatment works is of such a strength, such a volume, at such a delivery flow rate or toxicity as to increase the cost of operation and maintenance of the treatment works, the unit allocation for that user shall be increased (beyond that determined strictly by wastewater volume) to ensure a proportional distribution of operation and maintenance cost to each user or user class. At a minimum, the District can utilize criteria identified in the Local Law Regulating Sewer Use, Chautauqua County Local Law 1-03, effective February 7, 2003, to justify increasing a unit allocation.

**SECTION V**

SCALE OF CHARGES

Pursuant to Section 266 of the County Law, the following scale of charges is established for the collection, conveyance, treatment and disposal of sewage being the sum of Subparagraphs A and B hereunder:

A. CHARGE AREA ANNUAL RATES PER UNIT

A1 $ 440.00

A2 440.00

B 400.00

B. $0.0120 per gallon (or $12.00 per thousand gallons) of actual or estimated water use. Actual or estimated water use shall be determined under the same criteria as is stated in Section IV D hereof.

**SECTION VI**

BILLING

A. The Administrative Head shall quarterly fix the amount to be charged to each parcel served by public sewers within the District under Section 266 of the County Law by adding the following two items:

1. The number of units attributable to each parcel of property under Section IV hereof multiplied by the charge per unit set forth in Section V A hereof for the charge area within which such property is located in accordance with Section III hereof divided by four (4).

2. The actual or estimated water use of such parcel in gallons multiplied by $0.0120 determined in accordance with Section V B hereof

and shall mail a bill for such charge to the assessed owner of each parcel of real property so charged on or about the first day of November, February, May or August for the amount fixed hereunder for the quarter ending the last day of the preceding month which bill shall be due within thirty (30) days of the date when it is mailed; a penalty of ten percent (10%) of the amount of the bill shall be added to any bill which remains unpaid thirty (30) days after the date on which it was mailed.

B. The Finance Director of the County of Chautauqua shall collect all charges and penalties established hereunder in accordance with Section 266 of the County Law.

1. In the event that the Administrative Head discovers that it omitted a charge which should have been made under Section VI A of this law, in whole or in part, a bill for such charge shall be mailed promptly thereafter; provided, however, that no such delayed billing shall be made for any quarterly billing period where the last day of such period is more than one year before the date of the mailing of the delayed bill.

D. In the event a property owner submits to the District Director a written request for a bill reduction due to a verifiable water leak which resulted in the introduction of clean water to the collection system, the District Director may, in accordance with a written policy established by the Administrative Head of the District, make a sewer bill reduction. A property owner’s request for a bill adjustment shall not suspend the obligation to pay such bill or penalties for late payment or non-payment. The District shall cause to be refunded, within thirty (30) days of its determination on the bill adjustment, any amount of overpayment and penalty, without interest.

**SECTION VII**

APPEALS

In accordance with Section 266 of the County Law and Resolution 235-03 of the Chautauqua County Legislature, the following procedure is established for taking appeals from the rate fixing determinations of the Administrative Head of the District:

A. All such appeals shall be in writing and mailed within sixty (60) days of the date of mailing of the bill from which the appeal is taken signed by the property owner appealing from the rate fixing determination, shall be addressed to the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District, 50 Clark Street, P. O. Box 167, Mayville, NY 14757-0167 by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested showing the party to whom delivery was made, shall state concisely the reason why the property owner believes said determination is inequitable and not in accordance with Section 266 of the County Law, and shall state the address to which notices to the property owner shall be sent. Where the appeal arises from (1) a clerical error because of a mistake in transcription, (2) a mathematical error in the computation of the charge, or (3) an error in essential fact in unit designation where there is no factual basis at all for the unit designation made, the time period for making such appeal shall be extended to within three (3) years of the date of mailing of the bill.

B. Within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the appeal, the Board of Directors of the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District shall respond by either notifying the property owner of its agreement with the result requested or by notifying the property owner in writing of its reasons for denying the appeal. In the latter case, the Board of Directors shall transmit a copy of the appeal and the response to it to the Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested showing the party to whom delivery was made addressed to Chairman, Chautauqua County Legislature, Gerace Office Building, Mayville, New York 14757.

C. The Chairman of the Chautauqua County Legislature shall appoint, within thirty (30) days of receipt of transmittal of the appeal papers, a three member committee to review the appeal and to respond and to make a written recommendation to the County Legislature. The Chairman of the Legislature, in his/her discretion, may appoint either a standing committee to hear such appeals or may appoint *ad hoc* committees for particular appeals. The Chairman of the Legislature shall transmit copies of the appeal and response to members of the committee.

D. Within forty-five (45) days of receipt of the appeal papers, the committee shall submit a proposed resolution to the Chautauqua County Legislature for resolution and decision of the appeal. If the committee shall desire to take testimony or gather additional information concerning the appeal, it shall notify the property owner and the Board of Directors by mailing, at least seven (7) days before the date fixed for these purposes, specifying the area and means of the intended inquiry.

E. The Clerk of the Chautauqua County Legislature shall notify the property owner and the District Board of the decision of the appeal within ten (10) days of the adoption of a resolution deciding the appeal. If the resolution deciding the appeal fails to be adopted because of the veto of the Chautauqua County Executive and the failure of the Chautauqua County Legislature to override the veto, the appeal shall be referred back to the committee for reconsideration and resubmittal to the Chautauqua County Legislature of a proposed decision under Paragraph D hereof; if the second resolution of the Chautauqua County Legislature deciding the appeal fails to be adopted because of the veto of the Chautauqua County Executive and the failure of the Chautauqua County Legislature to override the veto, the appeal shall be deemed to have been denied in all respects.

F. An appeal by a property owner shall not suspend the obligation to pay charges under Section 266 or penalties for late payment or non-payment. The District shall cause to be refunded, within thirty (30) days of its receipt of the decision of the Legislature, any amount of overpayment and penalty, without interest, as determined by the decision of the appeal by the Chautauqua County Legislature.

G. All notices, except the billing of the District made under this appeal procedure shall be by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested showing the party to whom delivery was made and shall be complete upon mailing to the Portland Pomfret Dunkirk Sewer District, 50 Clark Street, P. O. Box 167, Mayville, NY 14757-0167 or the property owner at the address stated in his or her appeal.

**SECTION VIII**

SEVERABILITY

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or other part of this resolution shall be adjusted by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment, decree or order shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, section or other part thereof, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall have been rendered, and to this end the provisions of each section of this resolution are hereby declared to be severable.

**SECTION IX**

EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALER

These user charges shall be effective February 1, 2018. The user charges confirmed by Resolution 54-13 of the Chautauqua County Legislature shall be repealed prospectively as of midnight on January 31, 2018.