

COSTS

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and thinks that "taxes are taxes." She says she will probably save money by hooking up, because the taxes will end up costing less than the service fees and repairs to her septic system.

"With the sewer system, I don't have to replace the sewer system," she said, adding that hooking up also makes more sense if she ever decides to sell her home. "It's not as if I have to give out \$30,000 or \$40,000 immediately. I pay as long as I live in the house, and if I decide to sell it, somebody else is going to pay."

Wilkinson resident Hilary Sheldon says she and her husband, who are both retired, probably would have tried to pay less for their home when they moved in not too long ago if they would have known about the sewer system.

"We were sort of disappointed it wasn't brought to our notice when we bought the house at the start," Sheldon said. "It would have been nice if the realtor, or the house inspector, or the people who emptied the septic tank gave us some sort of indication, but nobody told us that."

However, Sheldon said her septic system has been giving her some problems, so she will most likely end up connecting to the main line.

According to Hudson Mayor Elizabeth Corker, it is not that the Town did not con-

sider the situations the project may put some residents in, but that it was the results of a survey taken a few years ago that showed the area around Bellevue, Sanderson, Seigneurie, and Wilkinson desperately needed a sewer system. As for cost sharing, she said the Town had looked at many options.

Corker said the Town had studied other cost-splitting options: either the "non-served" residents should contribute nothing at all, or everyone should bear the cost, equally. The latter would raise everyone's tax bill by \$141.

"I think either extreme is incorrect...For everyone to pay equally, whether you're hooked up or not, I don't think is appropriate, because you're left with the problem of addressing your own system," she said. "So, we tried to find the right balance. I guess it remains to be seen whether or not we have."

As for the 68-year-old Wilkinson resident, she said she does not know what else to do, and will end up paying just like everyone else around her, even if it will be tough.

"My husband took care of everything before," she said. "When you're alone, it's hard. But then what can I do? I have to survive somehow."

SEWER

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rants according to the number of seats, while hairdressers would be assessed according to the number of cutting chairs. Offices and retail establishments would be assessed on the number of employees.

Bars would pay on the basis of the maximum number of clients, while medical and dental offices would pay according to the number of professionals on staff. Dry cleaners would be assessed three times the estimated consumption of an average home.

Corker defends the assessment structure even as she meets with individual business owners and managers to negotiate a way out, including a compromise that would see the Town install water meters in some businesses to determine real consumption figures.

"We had to start somewhere with a formula to address high-volume users," Corker said Tuesday. "We're dealing with averages...we won't know the final numbers until we flip the switch...after the tenders are let and construction is underway."

Le Maxime owners Nathalie Weiner and Jean-Sébastien Bertrand said the taxation proposal caught them by surprise.

"Two years ago the Maxime had asked for permission to increase the seating capacity," the couple said in statement. "At that time the Town requested that a water meter be installed to establish the actual water consumption during four summer months. The Maxime paid for this study to be undertaken and due to the new equipment in our kitchen the consumption was far less than anticipated."

"The Maxime has expressed its concerns in this respect to the Town of Hudson and it is our understanding that the taxation proposal will be reviewed in order to be more representative as to the actual situation."

Some 145 citizens showed up for last Tuesday's public consultation at the Stephen F. Shaar Community Centre. Turnout was even lower at Wednesday evening's meeting for the owners of Hudson's 144 businesses and 122 commercial buildings in the serviced areas.

At both meetings, Mayor Corker, councillor Tom Birch, and Town Engineer Trail Grubert were joined by representatives from the town's engineering firm LBCD to

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