

Town of Rockland

SEWER COMMISSION



Post Office Box 330
MASSACHUSETTS 02370

Charles Heshion, *Commissioner*
Daniel E. Duross, *Commissioner*
Sherri Vallie, *Commissioner*

Tel. 781.878.1964
Fax. 781.871.1909

Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting
587 R Summer St., Rockland, Ma.
Recorded for Public Playback on WRPS
(local cable access tv)
www.wrpsrockland.com

April 4, 2023

In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Sherri Vallie, Dan Duross

Introductory Remarks

This is a working session for the sewer commissioners. The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair may be discussed, not all items may be discussed, and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion within the limits of the law. The public is welcome to attend. There may be votes at this session. There will be no public comment except by those parties listed on the agenda

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Sherri Vallie, to begin the meeting at 2:04 PM, April 4, 2023 All in favor 3-0.

Approve minutes from last meeting

Minutes have been approved through March 14

No minutes to review this meeting

Continuation of Old Business

Water Commissioners Meeting

Joint meeting of commissioners is being planned – may include Abington Sewer board – agenda to be determined – Water department is also discussing municipal fees, these would be implemented FY2025 – complimentary to our sump pump issue is they have problems with irrigation systems, a partnership between the boards may be beneficial to resolve the problems – Senior Discounts are unclear if currently offered

-Water department has two full time clerks and are hiring a part time clerk – there were over 80 applicants for that position, after their position is filled, and the sewer department clerk is posted, those resumes will be forwarded to HR for our use – our position will be advertised after Union review

-Water department permits for new connections are good for one year

-Water department depends on snow melt to build capacity, high rains are not helpful

-Water department also has I&I issues, they have clay pipes,

-There may be an opportunity for cost savings if road work is coordinated

Project Manager/Superintendent

Extra hours were spent on generator and digester piping work for total of 11 hours
Weston Sampson has been asked for preliminary cost estimate to create a scope of work for an individual to take over the whole collection system – If a qualified candidate is not found, and there may not be any new development for awhile, a solid engineering firm would be a good idea – if there was an additional person to do the inspection work and review the building plan prints – this arrangement is done in several communities by WS as well as Veolia and Wright Pierce – the scope of work would have to go out to build – this would happen FY2025 – this person would be able to speak for the Town of Rockland but need to investigate how it works in other municipalities – the board would speak with the other towns – the board would like to have a person at the plant on a full time basis to handle the day to day quick decisions, can speak to town hall, can attend department meetings, review the invoices, respond to residents, etc – This is the workload that needs attention – This person would have the time to research grants (although Veolia and Wright Pierce are supposed to be assisting) – The concern is the condition of the infrastructure needs an outside opinion as there are limited tax dollars and the sewer department has more costs expected –

Sewer Funding

Sewer funding has always been dependent on new development which realistically is not going to happen for two years – the dept needs someone to be looking for grants – if we could be awarded \$4million, the department could then begin functioning as it should – Reasonable development could be approved with I&I work being completed in the time frame it should be done – Ms. Vallie would like to target finding this money with the suggestion we reach out to state and federal representatives – Mr. Heshion is waiting for report from Veolia and Wright Pierce Financial Group for a list of grants that we could apply for - The board still wants to talk with the state reps to explain our situation and how it affects the base housing and low-moderate income housing and 40B housing as well as the denser housing initiative to encourage transportation – Although we are over capacity now, with the \$4 million and the major pipes are fixed, the I&I is not permanently fixed, but it may ease enough to allow new projects – It will be many years unless we can grant money – Setting these meetings as May priority - Mr. Heshion will contact David DeCoste, meeting to be scheduled at their convenience – The board did not have the opportunity to speak directly to them when they toured the plant -

Plant Upgrade

Presentation at selectmen's meeting on April 7 was to get approval for \$1 Million in ARPA funds and \$1.5 Million in bond – this would cover guaranteed maximum price of design of the facility upgrade – This includes \$150,000 for sitework (soil boring, ground testing, etc) Doug Lapp has said it is ok to proceed with this contract, although we are waiting for town counsel to review contract, - Draft contract will be sent to Chuck, draft copy will be sent to Atty Kenny, then Veolia will send a final copy for commissioners to sign – should be available this week – Bids are not required because it is covered as a contract override with Veolia – Physical construction & design work has to be sent for bid

ARPA Project Documents

Sherri is creating a checklist of documents required – will meet with Robyn to determine what we have – The paperwork will be stored in one place with the goal to have a binder available for audit purposes – a checklist will be created for each project and each contractor associated with the project

I&I Rehab Work

Currently work is progressing in the Howard & Taunton Street area – water main breaks are delaying some work – the water department has the same issue with clay pipes breaking
-Pat Brennan has been asked to monitor the school project regarding flow – it is too high – the school will have to adhere to the 43,000 gallons permitted or I&I fees will be assessed – it is believed at least 100,000 I&I gallons coming from the school are costing the sewer department \$250,000 to treat –

-Schedule provided is not always followed – Weston Sampson will coordinate with highway department

Moratorium Revised

Revised copy to be distributed – changes are to numbers of I&I

Town Meeting

The commissioners should be prepared to speak about the articles in the warrant – the board will address this at a meeting prior to town meeting

Admin Update

- Beech Hill – summary to be provided
- Beechwood – no response from letters yet
- 365 Concord – no response from letters yet
- 978 Union st – cut & cap of burned house – house is torn down – will be charged as new connection- letter was sent, will send another letter to find out who capped the sewer -
- Roto Rooter drainlayers- has not returned calls, still need third reference, this will not be a blanket license, should put limit on drainlayers to prevent excessive licenses by one time jobs – idea is for one time license at a reduced rate with moratorium on new licenses – could be tied to 440 GPD – need to write up and vote and add to Rules & Regs –
- Fees will be mailed by admin assistant as a pdf format, Ms. Vallie would like to see this document accompany the letter of approval
- 335 Beech St – adding apartment – need to see as built plans – drawings did not show lateral – pending until next week – owner would like to discuss with board, schedule for April 11 or April 18
- 333 Concord St – dept received check with copy of bill – only adding a toilet – addition is NOT crossing the lateral per drawings – will add a clean out -Still need to vote approval
- 17 John Burke Dr – garage is crossing lateral
- Barry Ashton – letter regarding drainage issue, D Taylor spoke with customer, National Grid compacted ground with heavy equipment, water is now flowing to his basement, DTaylor will develop plan to clear outfall areas and has left message for customer
- Beech Hill – summary to be provided by DTaylor
- Centre Ave manholes – manholes should be stocked so they are available when needed –
- O Pond St – ZBA letter pending Zone A ruling – next meeting TBD
- PFAS sampling – from Rick K – will be started in July 2023
- Jefferson manhole- repairs still waiting for a quote
- NLK Generator scheduled offline, we have a contract, but we need to discontinue this practice as it is risky it won't restart – to be included in evening agenda – email sent 4-13 to Rick for follow-up – Need to investigate our current contract before cancelling the process
- Jefferson School manhole – DanDel to provide quote, still pending
- Approved Waitlist, update pending
- Abington flows – table
- Dyer St, no response, has been scheduled three times, invited to April 20, work is still halted, Pat Brennan recommends the line to be dug up – Resident is complaining the project is draining on to their property – need to rescind license if not satisfactory- drainlayer is liable to continue with the work until it is correct
- Zoom meetings are extended for two years until April 2025-April meeting will discuss if to hold future meetings in afternoon or evening
- Beech St, David T to write summary
- Elementary School, Pat Brennan is overseeing, have to wait until flows are reduced, probably July
- Dynavac-parking lot work scheduled for May
- IPP Program, pending Environmental Partners, need to do inspections and add to the program to update application-2 car washes potentially-add 4 dental offices-Board of Health takes care of internal

grease traps, Sewer takes care of outside grease traps-Mass DEP is satisfied with our current program – Fee for inspection is \$25 and there are additional fees associated with permit

-Supt job description being reviewed- Water department will send applications after they hire their part time clerk – Sewer clerk position is for up to 19 hours

-Manzella Ct, no fees paid, number 2 on waitlist, right after 320 Concord St

48 Carey St – approved for single family, needs to apply for permit, will return when multi family is ready to be started

-258 Union St-no response

New Connections Discussion

-Two year permit starts when approved to connect, not when plans are approved, Once their turn to connect arrives, the two year period starts, if they are not ready to begin, they move to the bottom of the waitlist, there is discretion to extend two years depending on the circumstances, water department permit is good for one year

Part Time Clerk

Union is reviewing before posting job description- we can interview anytime but the clerk cannot start work until after town meeting approves funds- applicants will be screened by Ms. Vallie and Ms. Day and the board will interview with Stacy

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to adjourn at 3:27 PM All in favor 3-0.

Documents to be included:

none

Next working session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 10, 2023

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 Zoom