

Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION



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Michael Mullen, *Chair*
Matthew Ryan, *Vice-Chair*
Walter Simmons, *Commissioner*
David P. Taylor, *Interim Superintendent*

Recorded for Public Playback on WRPS
(Local cable access tv)
www.wrpsrockland.com

Rockland Sewer Commission Meeting
May 19, 2025

In Attendance: Michael Mullen, Matthew Ryan, Walter Simmons, David Taylor, Robyn Day, Courtney Bjorgaard, Allyson Quinn, Megan Lynch (Veolia), Kent Nichols (W&S), Corey Repucci (W&S), Laurie Toscano (W&S), Dave Prickett (DPC), Justin Skelly (DPC), Dennis Benoit (resident) and Melissa McInnis (resident)

Call to Order

Michael Mullen calls the meeting to order at 6:43 PM.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to approve minutes of March 31, 2025 and April 30, 2025. All in favor 3-0.

Owner's Project Manager (OPM) Selection, Discussion and Vote

There was a brief discussion of the tallies from the score sheets filled out during the OPM interviews with DPC and Weston & Sampson. DPC scored 86.5 and Weston & Sampson scored 82.2.

David Taylor provided feedback from the referrals, which were all positive for both candidates.

Discussion revolved around the merits of using a larger firm vs. a smaller firm, personalized attention from a niche firm and the risk of using a smaller firm.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to rank the firms as (1) and (2) based on their score; delegate the Interim Superintendent to contact the top ranked firm (1 DPC) to negotiate contract terms and return with a final proposed contract. If anything in negotiations with top ranked firm does not result in a contract, then the Interim Superintendent will have the authority to reach out to the second ranked firm (2 Weston and Sampson) to negotiate contract terms and return with a final proposed contract. All in favor 3-0.

The final contract will be reviewed by legal counsel, signed by the Sewer Commission, the Town Accountant and the Town Administrator.

Administrative Update

- Abatement Request (s)

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to approve an abatement of \$4.99 for 208 Levin Road. All in favor 3-0.

- Drainlayer Renewal (s)

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to approve a drainlayer license renewal for John Hoadley Plumbing & Heating, Inc. All in favor 3-0.

- Miscellaneous

- o Semi-Annual NPDES Report

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to sign the Semi-Annual NPDES report. All in favor 3-0.

- o ADU Discussion

There was a brief discussion generated by the fact that we have another resident looking to add a free standing ADU and musing on what other towns are doing.

Superintendent Update

- Generator Project

Wrapping it up with the final numbers between Wright-Pierce, Tilton and CAT (Milton). We went over on scope and budget. Also, there's still the question of whether the generator will be large enough to accommodate the new plant design.

- Parking Lot

The parking lot tweaks are mostly completed. We've had tree removals, paint striping redone and landscaping. We also moved the handicap spot to a more convenient location at the beginning of the ramp.

Courtney will work with Lori on the final Superintendent questions. The final questions will be approved at the next meeting.

- Semi-Annual NPDES Report

The semi-annual NPDES report will be forwarded to Town Counsel who will submit the report to the DEP and EPA, on behalf of the Town, by the May 30th deadline.

Veolia (Plant Manager) Update

– Generator

The new generator has an oil leak and we're waiting on CAT Milton (the manufacturer) to send a technician. Hopefully the issue will be covered under the warranty.

- We are allowed a maximum flow of 2.5 MGD, per our NPDES Permit.
- We treated an average of 2.5 MGD this past month – with no violations.
- As of today, our average for this month is 2.2 MGD
- We hauled 163 tons of sludge from the facility this past month.

One operator resigned last month and another resigned this month. We've hired a new operator to start on June 9th; the other vacancy is currently being filled by floaters from other Veolia facilities.

The influent channel and the wet well were cleaned out, removing approximately 2 feet of grit. The pumps should run more efficiently now and there shouldn't be any restrictions to the flow. Those hadn't been cleaned out in about 8 years. The goal, going forward, is to have those cleaned annually.

We currently use ferric throughout most of the process at the plant and it's very corrosive. We're introducing other chemicals to the process to minimize the use of corrosive chemicals.

One older pump has leaked hydraulic fluid and run dry on oil and needs to be replaced.

The Superintendent mentioned that the Plant Manager is new in her role and is taking the time to go through all of the equipment and processes at the plant; repairing, replacing and upgrading, as necessary. She's also defining a maintenance schedule, going forward, that will include tank cleanings, lime scaling and grit removal. There are funds budgeted by both Veolia and the Sewer Dept. to address repairs and maintenance at the plant.

Sewer Superintendent Position Discussion

A total of (4) candidates applied. The team, consisting of Lori Taylor, Courtney Bjorgaard, Matthew Ryan and David Taylor, chose (2) candidates to be interviewed. Based on those interviews, both candidates were asked to participate in a second interview. They will be presented with a questionnaire of several different scenarios and what actions they will take to address those scenarios, along with a one year strategic plan; building a 30 minute presentation followed by a 15 minute Q&A.

Wednesday, May 28th was agreed upon for the interview/presentation to take place in open session.

Sewer Superintendent Interview Questions Discussion/Vote

Wednesday, May 28th at 6:30 PM was agreed upon for the interview/presentation to take place in open session, with an alternate date of May 29th at 6:30 PM.

Future / Upcoming Meetings

Next Sewer Commission Meeting – June 23, 2025 – 6:30 (4th Monday of the month)

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to approve the interview expectations document for the candidates, as written by David Taylor. All in favor 3-0.

Adjourn

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to adjourn at 8:49 pm. All in favor 3-0.

These minutes are a brief synopsis of discussions that occurred during the meeting. For more in-depth information, please refer to the meeting video on <https://www.youtube.com/WRPSRockland>.