



Town of Rockland

SEWER COMMISSION

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

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(Local cable access tv)
www.wrpsrockland.com

Rockland Sewer Commission Meeting
June 23, 2025

In Attendance: Michael Mullen, Matthew Ryan, Walter Simmons, David Taylor, Robyn Day,
Megan Lynch (Veolia)

Call to Order

Michael Mullen calls the meeting to order at 6:36 PM.

Approve Minutes

*Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to approve minutes of May 19, 2025.
All in favor 3-0.*

Administrative Update

- Abatement Request (s) – n/a
- Drainlayer Renewal (s) – n/a
- Miscellaneous – n/a

OPM (Owner's Project Manager) Contract Update

The Interim Superintendent shared the updated contract template with DPC, who added additional verbiage. None of the added verbiage is concerning. As a % of the overall project, the cost of the contract is within the expected range. The Interim Superintendent suggested adding a probationary period to the contract, since this is a new company that we have not dealt with before and it is a large (\$35M) project that they would be overseeing.

The draft contract has been shared with legal counsel for review. After legal review, the contract will be shared with the Board. The Board can edit or add additional

requirements. The next step is to have DPC at a Sewer Commission meeting (late July) to review the contract.

Superintendent Hiring Update

We have (1) new candidate for the position. The previous candidate took a position elsewhere.

There was a brief discussion around the physical vs. management requirements of the position. Management responsibilities include procurement, budgeting, management, IPP, vendor relationships, etc., while physical requirements include day-to-day (out in the street) responsibilities typically reserved for a mid-salary position. Those include assessing manholes, grease trap inspections, roadwork and sewer collections system assessment and repairs, etc.

The Interim Superintendent suggests that, if we can't fill the position, we look at the dynamic of the Superintendent responsibilities. The scope of job responsibilities for the Superintendent has changed in the past (6) years since we had a full time Superintendent. Every aspect of day-to-day field work is sub-contracted out, which is more expensive than splitting the Superintendent position into (2) positions; management and collections. Any changes need to be factored into our rate structure.

We looked into sub-contracting collections to Veolia. They would add (2) staff members, which would cost us about \$200,000 for those (2) positions.

The previous Sewer Commission, in the absence of a Superintendent, would call a sub-contractor to assess any items out in the street and then we would pay the sub-contractor to assess and perform the work. We were sometimes paying engineers to assess and provide field work.

When we had a full-time Superintendent, he would go out in the field to assess an issue and sometimes take care of the issue with a Veolia staff member. If not, he would hire a subcontractor to take care of the issue. I&I issues have grown larger during that time, as well.

Sewer is also responsible for open drainage, which is growing larger each year. All drainage projects require us to pull permits through Conservation, hire and pay for engineering, and then back to Conservation for peer review. We could spend \$30,000 before starting the open drainage work. Previously, with a full-time Superintendent, we saved money by doing some of our own in-house engineering.

There were examples given of how different scenarios cost us more money than they should in the absence of a full-time Superintendent.

FY2025 Auto Allowance

The auto allowance stipend for the Sewer Commission has been in effect since the early 1980's. After a brief discussion, it was decided to eliminate the stipend.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to discontinue the auto allowance for FY2025 and going forward. All in favor 3-0.

ARPA – Additional Allocations

There were additional ARPA funds available. The Town Administrator requested \$209,249. on behalf of the Sewer department, for the generator project at the plant that went over budget. We were awarded \$104,624.

We also have a credit form CAT. After all of the credits and new funding are ironed out, the project will be completed.

It was noted that the Town Administrator and Select Board have worked consistently to prioritize sewer needs with regard to funding. The Town Administrator went back to the well for the additional funding when other towns left ARPA money on the table.

Superintendent Update

The stipend for the Administrative Assistant ends with the fiscal year. The Interim Superintendent suggested that it be extended through the end of the calendar year.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to continue the Administrative Assistant stipend, exactly as it is, to January 1, 2026.

It was noted that the Administrative Assistant stipend will be reviewed again in December of 2025.

The stipend for the Interim Superintendent ends with the fiscal year. The discussion to extend his role and stipend, as previously approved, will be discussed at the next Sewer Commission meeting.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Walter Simmons, to add the stipend for the Interim Sewer Superintendent to the July 28, 2025, meeting agenda.

We forwarded all of the paperwork to Wright-Pierce so that they can apply for the SRF loan through the MADEP on behalf of the Town. The Town previously voted for loans in the amount of \$1.0M and \$1.5M (2023) and \$12.5M (2024) and at the latest Town Meeting \$22M (2025). We forwarded the certifications for the votes to Wright-Pierce, as well. The deadline was June 30

Plans and specifications from the preliminary design report need to be submitted with the loan application. The deadline for submission is October 3rd. We do not have the preliminary design from Wright-Pierce as of today. Without the preliminary design report and the OPM not on-board yet to review the design, we may not have enough time to meet the deadline.

The Chairman questions if we should notify MADEP that we don't expect to meet the deadline. This would give them the option of moving forward with another Town's project, rather than waiting for us. It may not benefit us though to pre-emptively notify MADEP.

There was a brief discussion of the current funds we have on-hand vs. waiting on applying for the \$22M until next year. At this point, we should have enough funds on hand to get us to the October 2027 deadline.

We have tentatively requested that Wright-Pierce attend a meeting to present the Preliminary Design Report to the Board

We have been working with Veolia to get all of the sub-stations up to par, upgrading pumps and performing any outstanding maintenance prior to moving forward with the work at the plant.

We will be performing maintenance on the sewer lines, vacuuming and jetting in July and August. We will target 2 nights per week.

Sewer manhole inspections will be performed by Weston & Sampson through our I&I program and contract.

The Centre Avenue manhole project originally consisted of replacing (10) manholes. The Interim Superintendent did the field work for the project 2 ½ years ago. Since then, the project has increased to (12) manholes and the inspections and compensation for I&I credits have changed, as well. Centre Avenue is a state road and subject to SHAPS (state highway access permits system). The new rules require us to use an independent company to assess the manholes and apply for the credits. We have a contract with Weston & Sampson and this project is covered under that contract. The Weston & Sampson contract includes (30) manhole inspections.

Other areas that have I&I issues include Goddard Avenue and Concord Street. Inspections will be performed and flow meters will be installed around town to identify other sources of infiltration.

In addition, rehab work is being overseen by Weston & Sampson. They will be putting out a bid for the actual work.

Veolia Update

– **Operations Summary:**

- We are allowed a maximum flow of 2.5 MGD, per our NPDES Permit. We treated an average of 2.6 MGD this past month, exceeding the 2.5 MGD limit and resulting in a flow violation.
- Total rainfall for the month was 3.8 inches.
- All lab samples reported to the state met requirements. Testing is conducted both in-house and by a certified lab.
- The belt filter press dewateres sludge which is then hauled off-site by roll-off containers twice weekly. 371,000 gallons were processed, filling seven roll-off containers.

– **Maintenance and Repairs:**

- Veolia is rehabbing all of the pumping stations, including inspections of all floats.
- A pump failed at the Forest Street station due to the pump cable falling into the wet well and being sucked up by the pump. Upon inspection, the rail guiding the pump

was also found to be bent. A company has been identified to rebuild the pump and repair the rail in the wet well.

- Stationary Godwin pumps are in place at both Hingham South and Hingham North. Maintenance was performed on the Godwin at Hingham South, confirming its functionality. The Hingham North Godwin will be addressed next.

– **Upcoming Projects:**

- Plant projects will focus on removing debris and settled material from tanks, beginning with the grit chamber and then progressing through other online tanks. Cleaning will improve the tanks' capacity to handle increased flow intake.

Future / Upcoming Meetings

Next Sewer Commission Meeting - Monday, July 28, 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 7:43 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>.