

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
August 27, 2025

In Attendance: Michael Mullen, Matthew Ryan, David Taylor, Robyn Day and Megan Lynch

Call to Order

Michael Mullen calls the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Approve Minutes

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Michael Mullen, to approve minutes of July 28, 2025. All in favor 2-0.

Administrative Update

New Drainlayer request for NE Style, Inc. (School House Project)

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Michael Mullen, to approve new drainlayer license for NE Style, Inc. All in favor 2-0.

Owner's Project Manager (OPM) - Review /Discuss/Vote DPC Contract

We've had (2) decent applicants that accepted other opportunities and we've looked at applicants that don't meet our criteria. We've reviewed the job description and there's not really anything that can be removed. At this price point we don't expect to find someone with experience in regulatory, procurement and political savvy. The Superintendent will inherit a great structure but must deal with the demands of the Administrative Order, EPA oversight, Management Structure and Phase 1 of the Plant Upgrades (\$35M).

The position has been posted for 8 months with a salary range of \$100k - \$115k. We've looked at watering down the qualifications and adding more flexibility. At this point it would be a disservice to the Department if we don't review the salary range.

There was discussion around re-evaluating the job description, updating the salary to attract experience; and hiring a licensed, collections staff to offset the Dig Safe, IPP, grease traps inspections, R&M, I&I, night work and 24-7 emergency availability. The position is currently archaic where you go from grease trap inspections to the board room.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Michael Mullen, to increase the salary range to \$110,000 - \$140,000, plus or minus, based on experience and qualifications. All in favor 2-0.

It was agreed to revisit this conversation in November to determine if the new salary is attracting more seasoned applicants.

David Taylor was approved in November of 2024 to serve as Interim Superintendent until the end of fiscal year 2025. In July that term was extended to include tonight's meeting to discuss extending the term further.

The upcoming schedule of pending items was discussed. Those include the IPP report, due in October; the Semi-Annual report, due in November; FY 2027 budget, due December/January and FY2027 Articles, due in February. We have strong relationships with DPC, Weston Sampson and Wright-Pierce and we're caught up with all regulatory requirements.

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Michael Mullen, to extend the appointment of Interim Superintendent, David Taylor, through the end of February 2026. All in favor 2-0.

Superintendent Update

An OPM meeting with DPC is held every Wednesday on Zoom and a monthly meeting is held in person.

DPC is reviewing all preliminary design plans. Window and roof modifications have been made to the preliminary design. Fire suppression requirements are being reviewed. Inspections with the Building Dept. and Fire Dept. need to be scheduled.

Wright-Pierce is working on the Cash Flow Analysis and will be completed tomorrow. Partial submittals for SRF funding are in the works, to be submitted by October. DPC is submitting applications for SRF funding, as well.

Future submittals for funding will be handled by DPC. Preliminary design tasks 1-6 SRF funding submittals will be completed by July of 2026.

The Town Accountant and Town Administrator will review the Cash Flow Analysis from Wright-Pierce tomorrow. We need to evaluate if we have enough money between the \$1.5 M Bond and \$1M ARPA accounts to get us to next July with Tasks 1-6. We believe we do, but we need to stay on top of it and ensure that we're not in a position requiring us to make interest payments on funding that we haven't used yet.

The DEP has our budget/submittal. They know what we have earmarked for projects, dates, town meeting approval for the \$35M, updates, etc. This puts us in a good position for requesting funding. We will remain pro-active with our submittals.

– Miscellaneous

- We're upgrading pump stations (Forest Street) and performing maintenance work.
- Street/manhole overnight work is taking place 1-2 nights per week.
- Weston & Sampson is working on some smaller projects, including Goddard Ave, Centre Ave manhole project, and metering on Concord Street. We are also starting the I&I rehab work that the DEP is interested in.
- We will come up with a preliminary plan on how to address ADU units. Looking into what other towns are doing for parameters, rules, fees, stubs (shared vs. new), camera inspections on existing laterals, older infrastructures, change in direction manholes. Also, there are different parameters for

attached vs. stand-alone ADU's. We have a 30" trunk line on Concord Street that has been cut into so many times that we have I&I issues that will need to be considered. We need to consider how to move forward with flips and rentals, as well. All decisions will be up to the Sewer Commission but we will come up with some fee recommendations/specs and present them to the Board.

Veolia Update

– Operations Summary:

- We are allowed a maximum flow of 2.5 MGD, per our NPDES Permit. This past month we treated 48 million gallons with an average of 1.6 MGD.
- Total rainfall for the month was 5.0 inches.
- Our permit allows for .1 phosphorous levels, which we are meeting.
- The belt filter press dewateres sludge, which is then hauled off-site twice weekly. The press ran for 88 hours this month. 293,000 gallons were processed, resulting in 138 wet tons of sludge being removed from the facility.
- Veolia filled one position this month, leaving (1) position to still be filled with the focus on an operations person with strong maintenance skills. Veolia has been rotating in employees from other Veolia plants to help cover the vacancies. They've been able to focus on maintenance issues utilizing the rotating staff.

– Maintenance and Repairs:

- They lost the gear and motor drive for the belt filter press. They were able to install the new gear and motor drive in-house with the rotating mechanic. All (3) of our portable generators were serviced and (2) are up and running. Veolia is still working on the 3rd one.
- The Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) #2 was replaced by Veolia electricians in-house, saving time and money.
- Communication failures between Spruce Street pumping station and the Scada system were addressed by replacing the modem.
- A senior Veolia employee performed an audit of the stations and the plant. He provided a list of items to be repaired and/or modified.
- The electrical box will be replaced at the Forest Street pumping station, kicking off the rehab of that station.

Future / Upcoming Meetings

Next Sewer Commission Meeting - Monday, September 29 - 6:30.

Adjourn

Motion made by Matthew Ryan, 2nd by Michael Mullen, to adjourn at 7:24 pm. All in favor 2-0.

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>.

