



Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION

Post Office Box 330
MASSACHUSETTS 02370

Tel. 781.878.1964

Fax. 781.871.1909

Walter Simmons, *Chairman*
Ronald Savicke, *Commissioner*
Charles Heshion, *Commissioner*
David P. Taylor, *Interim Superintendent*

TOWN CLERK, ROCKLAND
MAR 31 '21 AM 8:25

**Remote Teleconference
Recorded for Public Playback on WRPS
(local cable access tv)
www.wrpsrockland.com**

Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting February 4, 2021

Motion made by Charles Heshion, 2nd by Walter Simmons to begin Commissioners meeting at 4:00 PM February 4, 2021. All in favor 2-0.

In Attendance (via zoom): Walter Simmons, Charles Heshion, David Taylor, Robyn Day, Stacy Callahan, Rick Kotouch (Suez) and Ed McAuliffe (Suez).

Introductory Remarks

Walter Simmons, Chairman.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

Motion made by Walter Simmons, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to approve minutes of previous meeting of December 3, 2020. All in favor 2-0.

Superintendent Position

After a brief discussion with Stacy, Walter and Chuck agreed to move Keith Nastasia and Brian Kiely forward for final interviews.

Stacey will schedule final interviews for February 23, 2021 and coordinate individual plant tours for each candidate with Suez prior to the final interviews.

Final interviews will be held at the WRPS station.

AW Perry Update

Chuck expressed his concern about capacity issues on future projects.

Richard Beal, project manager for AW Perry, provided David with the following projected figures for their future project of 300,000 sf phased in over multiple phases.

Phase (1) 15,000 GPD; Phase (2) 24,000 GPD; Phase (3) 70,000 GPD

Approved projects: (40,000 GPD)/ remove 440,000 GPD per 11:1 ratio

- Lydia Square (*the state took over this project so there won't be any remediation fees*)
- 365 Concord Street (*project has been halved*)
- Wendy's
- Glenn LaPointe (Spruce Street) 14,500 GPOD (*included in above figures but the developer decided to install his own on-site facility*)

Revised Approved projects to remove LaPointe Project: (24,000 GPD)/ remove 250,000GPD per 11:1 ratio

Chuck will recalculate removing Norman Street Project and half of 365 Concord Street

Pending/Future projects: (144,000 GPD)/ remove 1.6 million GPD per 11:1 ratio

AW Perry
Shingle Mill
(2) other 40B projects

Possible/Future but not counted in above figures: (100,000 GPD)

South Weymouth Base

Chuck expressed his concern about the brewery that might be coming to town. David offered to open the line of communication with the brewery and invite them to a future sewer board meeting for a preliminary status on their project.

Motion made by Charles Heshion, 2nd by Walter Simmons to have David invite the developer of the brewery project to come before the board. All in favor 2-0.

Remediation Fee Increase (vote)

Motion made by Charles Heshion, 2nd by Walter Simmons to increase remediation fee from \$10 per gallon to \$20 per gallon. All in favor 2-0.

Comprehensive Study Update (Wright-Pierce)

Last year, after soliciting 3 bids, Wright-Pierce was awarded the contract to complete a "Comprehensive Wastewater Treatment Plant Assessment and Evaluation". We allocated \$100,000 for the evaluation and the final cost was \$124,000.

The study involved the plant only; nothing outside the plant or in the streets. We have 13 pump stations and 50-60 miles of pipe that were not included in the study.

Wright-Pierce recently provided a presentation and draft document of their findings.

Chuck shared some highlights from the presentation along with his thoughts and opinions:

In some instances, we have an inability to get new parts due to the age of the equipment and systems, therefore, we should have a contingency plan in case of any equipment failures at the plant. There is some concern about the mechanicals; electrical, fire and HVAC systems not meeting code. The influent pump station is viable with no structural concerns. Structural cracking of the tanks with no installed water stops was identified. Concerns were raised about the nitrification gallery.

Chuck questions whether the wastewater treatment plant can treat current and approved projects in its current condition.

Chuck explains that the Sewer department is funded by fees it collects for new connections and services; not funded by taxes from the town; and the condition of the plant and the need for upgrading has been mentioned in the town report every year since 2005.

Drainlayer License Renewals

Motion made by Charles Heshion, 2nd by Walter Simmons to approve all renewal and new drainlayer applications as presented. All in favor 2-0.

Superintendent Update - David Taylor

Wright-Pierce should be wrapping up and providing their final report within 2 weeks.

Wright-Pierce offered to prepare a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan that could be used to apply for 0% loan or grant funding. The cost of the plan is \$8,500 to \$10,000.

Chuck requested that David put in an article for \$10,000 to cover the cost of the plan.

David spoke to Kevin Olsen for budgeting purposes/capital planning and asked him to include an article for \$300,000 to move forward into phase 1 and continue until we eventually reach the design phase, where we may be able to qualify for some grant funding. This could be approved for a lesser amount.

AECOM has the contract for the SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) to identify I&I areas that we need to go after (developers pay for the 11:1 ratio). Camera and structure evaluations will be conducted in areas where we've already identified drainage issues.

We have a town map that shows the town divided into 9 areas and indicates I&I areas that have already been worked on, pending and projected development. David shared the map with AECOM.

The rolling average of 3.5 MGD has gone down to 2.5 MGD over the years as work has been performed. David requested copies of all previous work AECOM has performed for the town over the past 10-12 years.

The I&I and annual town reports are completed.

Capital articles will be reviewed by capital planning.

An article for in-house I&I work will be submitted for approval in the amount of \$100k to cover small items like pipe lining, camera work and structural replacement. We're also requesting to roll forward any remaining balance in that account from this year to next.

Submitting an article for pumps maintenance and repair (injector stations) at Spruce Street and Butternut Lane. Both stations have lots of I&I; the 50 gallon pot at Butternut, especially, is continuously firing off because the station can't keep up with the excess flow. Multiple service visits are required each week.

The goal is to change the injector stations to submersible stations. This would also address the issue of parts becoming scarce and or obsolete for the injector stations.

Use I&I funds, Repair and Maintenance and we may have the option of using developer funds in the area to upgrade these stations.

Grease trap inspections, dig safe mark-outs, billing etc. all moving along.

Suez Update – Rick Kotouch

Rick shared that as Suez plant manager, he's been at the plant for a number of years and Suez, along with the previous board and superintendent have done a lot of work at the wastewater

plant. Suez has been pro-active in bringing projects forward; and those projects have always been approved.

The digester sludge back-up project was just completed for \$35,000. We don't have a back-up pump at the largest pump station in town on Hingham street. We're looking at \$32,000 - \$35,000 for a back-up pump.

The digester boiler at the plant needs to be replaced. The requirement is that it needs to be UL approved. Our digester boiler runs on methane gas and no-one manufactures a methane gas boiler that is UL approved. Hallem engineering applied for and received a variance on behalf of the town. The cost could be up to \$150,000 when it is put out to bid.

Suez wants to be partners like they have been these many years. They are looking forward to working with the town once the final report from Wright-Pierce is available.

Motion made by Walter Simmons, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to adjourn the meeting at 5:16 pm. All in favor 2-0.

