

# Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION



Post Office Box 330  
MASSACHUSETTS 02370

Tel. 781.878.1964  
Fax. 781.871.1909

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

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

**April 18, 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri Vallie, to begin the meeting at 2:02 PM, April 18, 2023 All in favor 3-0.**

## **Approve minutes from last meeting**

None for this week

**978 Union St** House torn down without notice to dept – within ten days of receipt, owner should meet with board to explain situation – board would like to know if drainlayer is Rockland licensed – failure to comply will cause sewer dept to cut service at town right of way and new owner will be considered new connection and will have to pay for cost of cutting and closing – no fines associated – Atty Galvin did review the letter and has no changes

## **Projects Pending**

- approved waitlist is 32 Concord St, Manzella Court
- approved pending hearing is Beechwood (May meeting) Dyer St still not satisfactory (scheduled for April meeting), Chuck requested he be present with Pat Brennan for line testing, 365 Concord St
- approved not subject to Moratorium is 343 Weymouth St, 48 Carey St, 60 Green St, 506 Beech St, 411 Pond St
- other projects have not been presented to the board yet

## **I&I Remediation**

- Located and sealed 5,000 gallons to date – starting lining this week – from manholes and lateral sealing – estimated total to be removed is 112,000 gallons, not original estimate of 119,000
- approved projects on waitlist are 28,365 gpd pending – means 312,000 I&I needs to be removed at 11:1 ratio –
- after 112,000 is removed, still need to removed 192,000 gallons
- EPA fine is expected, currently at 74% rate of non cOmpliance flow – cannot justify adding new connections
- Weston Sampson & Veolia Year 1 Annual Control is not going to physically locate sources of I&I - it is going to identify areas in town with high I&I – that will determine where to start looking –
- Weston Sampson, Wright Pierce, Veolia – inclusive in the \$2.5 million upgrade will be funding assistance -potential sources were sent in January – there is also \$1.7 billion in state ARPA funds available - “...coordinate investigate and prepare all funding requirements for both the facility upgrade and our I&I work...”
- Offices of DeCoste, Keenan have been contacted to arrange for joint meeting in May, also has contacted Warren and Auchincloss to meet in September – the purpose is to secure federal funds
- We as a board need to work with community groups to get support in writing such as North River Watershed also business groups such South Shore Chamber of Commerce, chuck will reach out to these groups
- Fundraising efforts should be coordinated through Sherri so that we are not duplicating efforts – Sherri will work directly with Jess after full meeting in May

## **Capacity**

- Today's flow was 2.68 million gallons per day – 12 month rolling average is 2.7 million gallons – monthly average is not an accurate indicator of our capacity – Need to notify planning board of capacity flow – limiting connections to 25 bedrooms a year means another 270,000 gallons to be removed – until the fine is actually given to the town, and with the November submittal, CWMP in place, and phosphorus status, then we can open discussions with EPA – 11 to 1 ratio is proving difficult and we need to generate revenue – but this discussion cannot take place until we show progress –
- Town cannot grow without the revenue but we need to put the plan in place – expect it will be a year before any new applicants can be entertained –
  - No hearings on new connections until we have a working capacity base –
  - There is an idea that there is a major I&I issue yet to be identified – there has been no major rain in a month yet the facility is still at 2.7 million gpd – Elementary school may be the cause as it is the only major change to the town –
  - Holding tanks are full for regular process, but we have additional capacity if heavy rain is received – big tanks still need some repairs

## **Letter to planning board**

- Moratorium will remain unchanged with letter to planning board stating no new applicants for at least a year – even with this action, we are still 192,000 gallons short of requirement for waitlist projects
- Annual control plan only identifies areas, once the rea is found, we have to find funds to fix the I&I – need grant money because the fy2024 budget money will be used to find out where exactly in the area and then need grant funding to actually do the work
- If \$4 million in funding can be obtained, it would allow the work to be done to bring the I&I position back to normal operating business
- Draft letter to planning should be ready for review for Thursday meeting– anything more than 440 gpd will not be scheduled
- Once the waitlist is cleared, there will be no more additions as there is no clear end in sight
- letter should be copied to water, building, and board of selectmen in addition to planning and zoning

## **Thursday meeting**

365 Concord St to provide project update-question is subject to new fees -need new plans-one year extension is dependent on starting construction within the year, if not the permit is expired- this project is under new ownership

Park & Howard to provide project description

Beechwood is scheduled for May

Draft letter to planning should be ready for review – anything more than 440 gpd will not be scheduled

At Thursday meeting, it will be decided to change time of monthly meeting, 3:30pm in person and it will be taped

### **Municipal Development Fees**

Include this on water meeting agenda, in addition to sump pumps

-it is suggested to see how other towns handle municipal sewer fees, chuck will research

-the town owns the lateral pipes same as a homeowner

-the board is looking for a contribution from the town

-charging user fees becomes dept income and I&I line item budget is adjusted

### **Joint meeting with Water Dept**

Hoping to set up first meeting in May

Suggest add municipal fees and sump pumps on first agenda

Water dept has problem with irrigation systems similar to our sump pumps

Town meeting article included for them to assess fines

Sump pumps Middleboro provided one year amnesty to register and have inspected with \$25 fee followed by fine if not in compliance

### **Superintendent Position**

There is a candidate interested in position – works in Boston and lives in Rockland – will probably be evening interview – will take place at sewer dept -question on if needs to be recorded – New questions to be created because different work history – board wants to determine his skills –

-for the new hire, do we want to sub hire to Veolia to learn the systems –

-will work with Stacy at HR to schedule the interview for first week in May

-the board has their list of tasks we need and they need to determine what is most important

-Weston Sampson is still putting quote together about providing a superintendent

-questions on license requirements, how to train with Veolia, etc

### **Accounting**

-accounting not up to date, will get a report ready for Thursday

-Town meeting articles, Sherri will run through the articles at Thursday meeting, but commissioners should be available to address any questions

-SSES account has a remaining balance of \$4,400 which expires in July, are there any other expenses to be posted? Need to check with Doug to see what happens to these funds – There is a question if the funds are lost or can be reallocated

### **Admin Update**

-Target renewal application for restaurant permit

-Dynavac- have until end of June to resolve manholes in parking lot

-Centre Ave manholes – chuck working on District 5 information

-Linwood St sinkhole - there is a sewer main line there, Hoadley to camera, he was provided with street map-will be there today or tomorrow

-180 Pleasant St – public records request on April 10, received today, this is location of Polymer who has an IPP permit, looking for records of underground and above ground storage tanks etc, sounds like 21E, extension has been requested

- 435 Hingham St-Dave Taylor looked at Ben Mann brook behind the property, needs to clean out the headwalls of the culvert-if condo assoc cant do, highway will do, should be no fee
- Generator – chuck spoke with John Ayote (Veolia) and Frank Occhipinti (Weston Sampson) to finish contract work for Doug to post on combuys, should be ready by Friday
- Jefferson school manholes done
- Waitlist ready to be posted on website

**Admin Assistant**

Posted internally, will be posted externally, Sherri to contact Stacy regarding applicants from water dept  
Posting should have been changed to 14-19 hours – Sherri & Robyn will screen applicants

**Rate Study** and July increase, we need to notify residents in advance – Print notification on the bill -  
Increase needs to be voted at Thursday meeting

**Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Duross to adjourn at 2:58 PM All in favor 3-0.**

Documents to be included:  
978 Union St letter

Next working session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2023  
Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 Zoom