



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*
David P. Taylor, *Interim Superintendent*

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

**Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting
April 22, 2021**

In Attendance: Charles Heshion, Dan Duross, David Taylor, Robyn Day, Keith Nastasia, Rick Kotouch, Ed McAuliffe, Brad McKenzie and Erik Schoumaker of McKenzie Engineering

***Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to begin the meeting at 7:00 pm, April 22, 2021.
All in favor 2-0.***

Introductory Remarks

Chuck Heshion, Commissioner.

Elect New Chairman

***Motion made by Dan Duross to appoint Chuck Heshion as Chairman, 2nd by Chuck Heshion.
All in favor 2-0.***

Approve Minutes of Previous Meeting

***Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to approve minutes of March 9, 2021,
March 18, 2021 and March 25, 2021. All in favor 2-0.***

Introduce New Superintendent

***Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to hire Keith Nastasia as Sewer
Superintendent. All in favor 2-0.***

Comprehensive Study Update & Release of Wright-Pierce Final Report

We've received the final report from Wright-Pierce. Conversation regarding the digester boiler is still open for discussion. The design phase is 3 years away. Next steps will be discussed over the next year.

The report does not include pump stations or piping in the streets. Upgrading the plant (mechanical), won't reduce our capacity. EPA/North River Watershed are not likely to raise the 2.5 MGD limit. The only way to gain capacity is by going after and removing I&I (inflow & infiltration).

Wright-Pierce will present their study findings at the Sewer Board meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2021.

Moratorium Items for Discussion (handout)

Chuck gave an overview of his proposed moratorium criteria:

Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works implemented a water moratorium that went into effect last Wednesday.

Chuck will be proposing a 6 month moratorium for Sewer from June 1, 2021 through December 1, 2021 with no permits being issued during the moratorium. Any permits already in the works are not subject to the moratorium.

Once the moratorium is lifted, the proposal suggests a limit of 3,300 GPD for residential and 10,000 GPD for commercial development or 20,000 GPD for special circumstance commercial development. The proposal includes details about setting up an account of available GPD capacity (*ASFA – Available Sewer Fund Account*). Permits would be subject to the previous 6 month rolling average at the plant not exceeding 2.5 MGD. Our 12 month rolling average currently is 2.49 MGD.

Currently we have 50,000 GPD to allocate to new users. No permits issued unless we have the GPD available in the ASFA. Once the 50,000 GPD is depleted, we will create a waiting list. We will have to remove 550,000 GPD based on our 11:1 ratio to replenish the 50,000 GPD.

Smoke testing, cameras and dye testing are the methods use to detect I&I. Rockland has done (3) studies since 2006 and found 500,000 gallons of I&I.

The 2006 Administrative order from EPA was issued for repeat flow violations. Chuck feels that the Administrative Order will be updated to a Consent Order.

Flow rate and fees for residential connections are determined by using a formula from the Title V regulations based on the # of bedrooms.

Flow rate and fees for commercial connections are determined by using a similar formula from the Title V regulations.

Chuck further proposes that commercial applicants will be subject to finding and repairing I&I, at their own expense, prior to the issuance of a permit. The I&I amount will be calculated using the 11:1 ratio.

The slide show will be available on the town website.

We have an aging facility and equipment is barely keeping up.

The plant manager comments that I&I is an issue during rain events. Current flow is 3.4 MGD at 7:30 PM due to rain.

We can treat higher flows, but the equipment struggles and operators have to work OT.

Chuck states that we violate the flow limit of 2.5 MGD 56% of the time. The Administrative Order keeps the Town of Rockland on the radar of the EPA.

Limits are getting tighter all of the time and we have an aging plant and infrastructure along with high I&I. For example phosphorous discharge levels were 1.0 and that level has been lowered to .2

Superintendent Update

SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) Update

Working with National Water Main over the past 5 weeks to identify areas of Inflow & Infiltration using flow isolation techniques. 80% of the town was done with flow isolation.

Manhole volumes were tested. Some manholes, when isolated, filled up within 30 seconds. That's a high volume of infiltration. The fee for repairing a manhole is between \$3-4k but we save 1,000's of gallons of I&I per manhole.

Following the water flow in town dictates the direction of where to start with the repairs. The flow runs from North Union and flows down to Hanover.

The next 4-5 weeks we will be using cameras in the sewer pipes in problem areas to locate the exact entry points of I&I to be repaired.

Dyer Street

The project proposed for 16 units @ \$7,500. per unit in development fees for \$120,000; 16 units @ \$100 per unit in tie-in fees for \$1,600; and 43 bedrooms at 110 GPD (*total of 4,730 GPD*) @ \$20 per gallon for \$94,600 in remediation fees.

Shingle Mill is first in line for water once the water ban is lifted. If that project is approved there will not be water available for the Dyer Street project.

Sewer has provided tentative approval for this project previously. Approval would be subject to the installation of an on-site grinder pump per our revised Sewer Ordinance.

Chuck mentioned that he has come to realize that people have been putting masks into toilets and it's becoming a problem. Grinder stations will help correct the problem of masks, wipes, etc. coming into the sewer system. David Taylor will speak with David Murphy of WRPS about adding a notice to WRPS

website. We have information about wipes on the town website. David suggests sending a flyer out with the sewer bills to reach all residents.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to approve the Dyer Street project subject to installation of a grinder pump. All in favor 2-0.

Brad McKenzie requested an approval letter from the board. Chuck agreed to provide the letter by next Tuesday.

Brewery

David reached out to John Stone in Abington as they have a similar closed-loop system at the 10th District Brewery in Abington. They have had no issues.

Abington/Rockland Joint Water is approving the brewery project in Rockland because the water usage is below the previous tenant's water usage on the site.

Add the brewery project to the next meeting scheduled for June 17, 2021.

Sewer Hook-ups

For new residential hook-ups, David has switched from 1 clean-out to 2 clean-outs. First clean-out sweeps toward the home and the 2nd sweeps toward the street. He's also required manholes (top hats) to locate the clean-outs. This should cut down on having sewer personnel come out to identify clean-outs. He suggests that we add this requirement to the sewer ordinance.

General Topics

Grease-trap inspections are all taking place between 5:00 and 6:00 AM; no issues.

Dig Safe/sewer mark-outs are funneled to us through the Water Dept or the homeowner. Suggests we set up an account directly with Dig Safe.

Scanning of the as-builts and street maps into the GIS system is underway. Water, Gas, Drainage and Sewer will overlap on the GIS system and be available through the cloud software. This should eliminate the need to go through the paper files for copies of as-built and street maps. Uploads will be happening over the next few weeks. Once the files are uploaded onto the cloud, the files will be accessible through the GIS software. The fees for the project were shared between the Sewer Dept and the Drainage Dept.

The Electrical Inspectors came down to inspect the junction box that was identified in the Wright-Pierce report as being exposed to the elements. That junction box is located 15-20' high on the ceiling in the main building. The inspector advised us to bend the caps up and install a perforated cover to alleviate any moisture build-up. It was repaired with water resistant gel caps.

All of the electrical buckets will be vacuumed and it was suggested that an infra-red study be conducted on all outlets. Plant Manager, Rick Kotouch, is soliciting quotes for that study.

The Monahan Rink Project has been approved through the Water Dept. They are preparing to come in front of the Sewer Board.

Suez Update

Rick confirms that they are seeking quotes for the infra-red survey and cleaning and testing of the MCC buckets by electrical engineers.

Suez has met with Wright-Peirce for preliminary conversations. A lot of our equipment is older and there were conversations regarding the digester-boiler. The digester-boiler is important because we generate so much sludge at the plant. Ed has received the specs from Hallam this week. Once he has all of the information, he will set up a meeting to discuss. It is still critical to perform repairs to the digester-boiler as the build-out at the plant is at least 3 years away.

The pump for Hingham Street South station has a lead-time that brings us out to August or September.

Butternut pump station needs to be rebuilt. Rick is requesting us to put in an article to replace the entire pump station. Rick will prepare a summary of the costs to replace vs. rebuild the station.

Ed has been working on monthly reports that are being posted to the town website.

Public Forum

Chuck advises the public that if they have any questions or concerns to not hesitate in submitting those through the town website.

Concerns were raised about:

The Forest Street project including 2-3 skating rinks and a 250 seat restaurant.

The 16 units on the Dyer Street project will exceed the limitation of 10 units. The limit of 10 units is part of the proposed changes, not currently in effect, therefore does not affect the development proposed for Dyer Street.

The stream behind Dyer Street backing up; engineers from the Dyer Street project knocked down trees which blocked the stream and caused a backup. David Taylor will take a look as he is responsible for open drainage.

Why we don't stop all development until we've reduced I&I? Do the developers, town hall and David Taylor understand the 11:1 ratio?

Chuck agrees to put together a document of acronyms and their meanings.

We have an article for \$300k to use towards fixing I&I. We are currently in the middle of our SSES (Sewer System Evaluation Study) to identify I&I issues to be addressed.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to adjourn at 8:34 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>

