

Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION

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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 **May 19, 2021**

In Attendance: Charles Heshion, Dan Duross, Robyn Day, Keith Nastasia, Rick Kotouch, Ed McAuliffe,
Resident Derek Ewell, Kevin Grady of Grady Consulting Group.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to begin the meeting at 7:03 pm, May 19, 2021. All in favor 2-0.

Introductory Remarks

Chuck Heshion, Commissioner.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings (4-15-2021 and 4-22-2021)

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to approve minutes of April 15 and April 22, 2021. All in favor 2-0.

Drain Layer License

Chuck Heshion, Commissioner.

Warner Brothers Excavation, Abington, MA – all paperwork and fees provided and paid in full.

EL Margett's and Sons, Inc., Hingham, MA - all paperwork and fees provided and paid in full.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to approve both Drain Layer licenses. All in favor 2-0.

Abatement – David Ewell

The Water Department used estimates for the bill over (2) quarters. Meanwhile, the toilet had a silent leak that went undetected as there was no impact to the bill until after an actual reading was taken. The toilet was repaired and the Water Department abated the additional water charges.

Chuck Heshion recused himself from voting on this matter as Chuck knows David Ewell.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion to approve the sewer abatement. All in favor 2-0.

New Connection Request(s)

Monahan Rink Complex – Kevin Grady, Grady Consulting did not have access to a computer screen to share and review the drawings that he had provided previously to the board.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to continue the discussion with Monahan Rink at the June 17th meeting. All in favor 2-0.

Old Business

- **EPA Update** – Keith has been collecting a large amount of paperwork in response to the EPA request for information. Chuck will ask the EPA for an extension of time for 90 days.

- **Permits**

Wendy's - approved and paid their development fees

Lydia Square (40B) fees were waived although we still need to account for the flow on the 11:1 ratio

1015 Hingham - approved – not paid – no permit issued

Dwyer was approved – not paid – no permit yet

91 Dexter Road (future project)

Beechwood – approved (future project) – Rescind their approval and resubmit their plans when they're ready to move forward with the project.

Concord Meadows – approved (future project) - Back before planning; they've reduced the size of their development by half. Chuck states that their sewer approval is rescinded because they've changed their plans and will have to come in front of the Sewer Commission again.

Elementary School – With the combining of (4) schools, we still have to look at the flow changes

257 Weymouth (Fidelity Wellness) – existing connection

Shingle Mill – Status unknown

Marijuana Shops – existing connection

406 VFW Drive (brewery) – existing connection; 100% closed loop system

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to rescind approval for the Beechwood project and Concord Meadows project. All in favor 2-0.

Commissioner Heshion will provide letters for the developers of both projects, notifying them that their approval has been rescinded.

- **Sewer Moratorium – Vote (handout)** We’ve been over our flow limit for (5) consecutive months. After some discussion about using the rolling average vs. the monthly average in the moratorium requirements, it was decided to use the rolling average.

10% of our NPDES permit limit of 2.5 MGD would give us a margin of 250,000 gallons to allot to development if all other conditions of the moratorium are met. Keith suggests 240,000 gallons, which is agreed upon.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to accept the language of the new moratorium, as written, with the edits from 2.5 to 2.4 MGD and using the rolling monthly average. All in favor 2-0.

Commissioner Heshion will notify Planning, ZBA, Building Dept., Doug Lapp, Jennifer Constable, Mike O’Loughlin, Joe LaPointe and the Building Dept.

- **Wright-Pierce** – will present to the Board of Selectmen on June 15 at the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Wright-Pierce will also present at the Sewer Commission board meeting in July with a Q&A session.

Chuck suggests that we offer tours of the plant to the Board of Selectmen, Town Administrator and residents with Rick Kotouch and Ed McAuliffe of Suez to conduct the tours. Chuck will reach out to see how many people are interested.

- **Interim Sewer Superintendent Position**

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to end the stipend for David Taylor and Robyn Day by the end of May. All in favor 2-0.

Superintendent Update

I&I

Current Budget Balance:	14,000
Prior Article (71):	100,000
July 1, FY22 Budget:	100,000

SSES Study – Flow isolation and camera work finished up last week by National Water Main. It will take AECOM eight weeks to review all of the tapes and prepare a report. Once we have the report, we can start planning the I&I removal.

The (3) previous studies at \$300,000 each only identified 500,000 gallons of I&I, in total. The current study has identified over 1,000,000 gallons of I&I. Chuck would like AECOM to present the data and verify those numbers with back-up.

Keith met with Hallam regarding replacement of the boiler. The plan is to rollover any leftover funds in the boiler account and combine that with funds from the new FY22 budget and to replace the boiler before this coming winter. The estimated price is \$250,000, but with the high price of commodities lately, we may be looking at \$300,000.

Methane gas lines are not included in the estimated price. The local gas lines to the boiler will be replaced when the water lines are replaced. To replace all of the methane gas lines throughout the digester boiler complex it might cost another \$250,000 - \$300,000.

It was determined previously that we are not impacted by the clean air act when replacing the boiler. Odors should not be a problem during the replacement as the replacement boiler will be up and running on the trailer while the switch is made. Downtime should be minimal.

Rick, Ed and Keith will work together on the scope for the bid.

Keith met with Guardian Energy to discuss energy savings grant(s). Guardian will assess our current HVAC units on the roof which are 20 years old; putting them past their useful life. At the same time, we may be able to introduce solar panels on the roof to reduce energy costs at the plant. As part of the equipment assessment, Guardian will also determine our eligibility.

Infra-red company will be conducting an infra-red survey and follow-up testing of the electrical MCC buckets at the plant.

Environmental Partners Group has started scanning all of the tie-in cards to be entered into our GIS system on the cloud so they will be accessible via phone or tablet. They will also be adding all of the stormwater maps.

We are looking into conducting a rate study, which is a requirement of setting up an enterprise fund. Our budget will be determined by what we collect as rates.

We are evaluating Butternut and Spruce Street stations to determine if it's more cost effective to rebuild the stations or replace them. Also, which option will give us more longevity.

Butternut has 25-26 connections. To upgrade Butternut it is estimated to cost approximately \$100,000 and it should last 10-15 years. Keith will review the budget and articles for funding. If we have the funding, he will prepare a bid. Bid must be advertised for (2) weeks and then a site walk through will be conducted for any bidders. We should have a vendor selected by September.

Do we need a contingency plan during the upgrade? Weston Sampson states that it can be done, as long as we have National Grid involved. A bypass will be used during the conversion.

There are not a lot of grant opportunities available right now. Keith is looking at an energy grant right now through Mass Energy.

Chuck states that we need to keep on top of the I&I. Keith states that new permits will bring in some revenue for I&I.

Chuck – Howard & Park, and Holy Family project developers will need to be made aware of the moratorium.

Suez Update

Rick, Ed and Keith have been discussing Butternut and Spruce pumping stations. Butternut is the priority.

Suez conducts semi-annual cleaning of wet wells at the pump stations. We keep back-up pumps on hand. Each back-up pump lasts about 5 years.

Infra-red is scheduled to start on June 3. Phase 1 is the infra-red survey and Phase 2 is checking and cleaning the buckets.

June 7 we will begin the assessment for semi-annual calibration of the flow meters. Flow meters for both Abington and Rockland are tested and calibrated. Abington averages about 50,000 GPD although their agreement allows for 100,000 GPD.

Rick and Chuck were both surprised that back in 2006 the NPDES permit reporting requirement went from a rolling average to a monthly average. Rick advises that we work with EPA to get the permit back to a rolling average requirement.

The generator repair will be done next Monday. The generator was installed in 1964, so it took quite a while to get quotes on the parts. The generator has a lot of band aids on it. The quotes are about \$5,000 to fix the generator.

Plant is running great right now; all of the numbers are very low right now.

New Business

- **Proposed 2021-2022 New Connection Fee (handout)**
- **Discussion 7:00 PM Meeting Time**
- **Commission Vacancy**

The Governor has lifted the restriction on meetings, so the next meeting will be in person on June 17.

Chuck prefers to have the meeting at 7:00 PM to allow more residents to participate in the meeting since going forward we're looking at a possible \$50M upgrade. If we run into problems using the 7:00 PM time slot, we can revisit. The meetings will be scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of each month.

We still have an opening on the Sewer Commission.

Items for June 17 Meeting

- **Howard/Park Street Project Presentation – No Vote**
- **Senior Discount Rate – Proposal by Robert Long, Resident**

Keith will research whether it is feasible and how we can implement it.

Public Forum

Mary Parson's requested copies of the RFI from the EPA that David Turin sent to the Town of Rockland and also a copy of the Wright-Pierce report. Chuck states that he'll provide them directly to Mary; that she does not need to put in a public record request.

Chuck asks if the RFI and the Wright-Pierce report can be posted to the web-site? Robyn will check with Geno regarding the size of the files and if they can be posted.

Chuck asks Mary Parson to reach out to the "Concerned Citizens of Rockland" group for interest in a tour of the sewer plant.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to adjourn at 8:21 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>