



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
June 17, 2021

In Attendance: Charles Heshion, Dan Duross, Keith Nastasia, Robyn Day, Rick Kotouch, Kevin Grady of Grady Consulting Group, Mary Parson, Jack Egan, Paul Bowen and David Frazier

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

Introductory Remarks

Chuck Heshion, Commissioner.

New Permit Request(s)

Monahan Rink Complex – Kevin Grady, Grady worked with the Water Department in 2016, has gone through planning, etc. The hockey rink is proposed to have 1537 seats generating 7685 GPD and 1.5” diameter piping with relief valve and grease trap. E1 designed the lift station over the run.

Chuck was concerned about the 15” diameter. Keith had no issues with E1. If there is an issue it would not be the town’s responsibility. 1.5” is very efficient on an injector pump, as low pressure with pipes bring if to a gravity pump.

The permit will be solely for the rink; permit for dormitory will be separate and now we’re under a moratorium. The rink proposes a 200 seat restaurant for users of the facility only. The ice freezing system is a closed system.

Pre-existing commercial project not affected by the moratorium because he applied previous to the moratorium. Note: Invite Howard/Park to the July meeting as they will be subject to the moratorium.

The Monahan Rink abuts conservation land. The project has been approved through conservation.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to approve the project at 7685 GPD and does not include the dormitory. All in favor 2-0.

Old Business

- **EPA Update** – All backup for permits issued more than 5 years ago are no longer available. Chuck feels that 5 years worth of data for permits is not enough to satisfy the RFI from the EPA. He would like a report from the town accounting dept. detailing who we paid, amount and job description. Keith to request a meeting with the town accountant to include Chuck.

Chuck would like to know how many sewer connection permits have been issued since 2006?

- **WP Presentation** – Consensus is that the presentation before the BOS went well. After a brief discussion it was decided that another presentation at the sewer department for the benefit of the public is not necessary.

I&I work is on-going. Pipes in the street are not only a Rockland problem but in surrounding towns as well; everyone has aging infrastructure.

Chuck has a concern that we may not be able to get parts for the plant in the future.

Rick suggests that we apply for a draft permit from the EPA after we've satisfied the RFI.

- **Sewer Connection Fee Increase (Vote)** – Keith suggests that going forward we break the fees down by bedroom rather than unit @ \$1,000 per bedroom. Also, can we add a layer to the fees to single out existing homes at the lower rate and reserve the increased rate for new development?

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to table the discussion until our next meeting in July. All in favor 2-0.

There was mention of reviewing Title 5 regulations for hotels vs. apartment buildings when we revisit this subject at the next meeting.

Add brewery to the next meeting agenda, as well.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to schedule the next meeting for Thursday, July 15. All in favor 2-0.

- **Senior Discount Rate** – We had a resident request regarding a senior discount on sewer rates. Keith to review the policies in place at water and trash and make a recommendation at our August meeting. Chuck will respond to the original requestor to let him know the Commission will take it under consideration.

- **Lydia Square** – was a project for Senior Housing that was proposed by the Rockland Housing Authority. The ZBA approved the project and waived the fees. The approval was tied to the deed during the sale.

Superintendent Update

The Sewer System Evaluation Study (SSES) camera and flow isolation portions are completed. We are awaiting the report from AECOM. They identified 1.5 million gallons of Inflow & Infiltration.

We should be ready to do design work by October. AECOM will give us a price.

Chuck asks if we can request funding at the special town meeting in October? Can we tack on a request for funds for I&I also? Funds for the Butternut pump station? Funds for the digester boiler?

Keith states that we've spent about \$2M over the past 15 years or \$138,00 per year which is equivalent to one small street per year. Trying to fight I&I with \$138,000 per year will never get you ahead of the curve. We need a good funding source but grants may not be available. Keith offers to put together a presentation on I&I, if necessary.

Chuck asks about the Maplewood development; what were the development fees and how did we spend it? He states that the funds we collect from development need to go to I&I.

The Administrative Consent Order makes us ineligible for 0% financing.

We're now set up with our own account for sewer with Dig Safe. Previously we were tied into Dig Safe through the Water Dept.

The Butternut Pump Station handles about 25 connections. It would run about \$600k to replace the pump station and only \$100k to upgrade it. Keith is working with the town accountant to roll over as many funds that we can to the September special town meeting.

Chuck raises a safety concern about the Butternut Pump station that allows for one person in the hole with no back-up. He requests a letter from Suez that states the town of Rockland is not responsible for any injuries.

Suez Update

- **Hallom Digester Boiler** – We need approval at town meeting on September 13 for \$330k. There is a 3-4 month lead-time, so the earliest we can do the work is Spring of 2022. It was noted that we are grandfathered for emissions.
- **Spruce Station** – rebuilding of this station will need to be pushed off to next year.
- **Infra-red study** – completed; electrical maintenance on buckets to be done next month.

- **Infrastructure** – during May we had (1) flow violation at 2.6 MGD; our limit is 2.5 MGD. We have had violations over the past (6) months but they would not be violations if we had a 12 month rolling average permit as most towns do. Rick states that the facility is running well, but it's all driven by the flow. Our rolling avg is 2.38 while our monthly avg is 2.614. A complaint was made in 2006 by North River Collaborative which resulted in our permit being issued with a monthly average. Rick states that we have one of the tightest permits around.

Rick suggests that we really need the draft permit. We can't get to 1.5 MGD with our current equipment.

Chuck states that he would like us to work with North River Collaborative to increase our capacity from 2.5 to 3.0. What about the Army Corp of Engineers; can they help us? French's Stream is an impaired water way. Mary Parsons volunteers to get contact information for North River for Chuck Heshion.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to adjourn at 8:20 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>