

Town of Rockland

SEWER COMMISSION



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Charles Heshion, *Commissioner*
Daniel E. Duross, *Commissioner*
Douglas Cope, *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
February 17, 2022

In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Dan Duross, David Taylor, Robyn Day, Rick Kotouch, Melissa Brown, Sherri Vallie, Kim Quan, Sheila Togo and Jack Ward

Introductory Remarks

Chuck Heshion.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to begin the meeting at 7:03 pm, February 17, 2022. All in favor 2-0.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to approve minutes of January 20, 2022. All in favor 2-0.

Abatements

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to approve abatement amount of \$175.00 for Melissa Brown of 6 Lauren Drive. All in favor 2-0.

Continuation of Old Business

– Superintendents position update

There are (3) interested candidates. Chuck Heshion will ask Human Resources to forward the applications to Chuck Heshion and Dan Duross.

– CWMP Update. Kick off meeting date

The kick-off meeting with Wright-Pierce is scheduled for next week. There will be a follow-up meeting with the public in March.

– **NPDES Permit**

David Taylor and Chuck Heshion presented an overview to the Board of Selectmen on 02-15-2022.

Chuck Heshion screen shared a copy of the NPDES permit. A brief discussion was held on to finance the requirements of the new permit.

– **Draft Articles for the Town Meeting**

Chuck Heshion proposed (3) article ideas: 1st for \$500K – compliance to NPDES; 2nd for \$330K – sewer department development fund reimbursement for Lydia Square waiver; 3rd for \$25K – independent legal fund for the sewer department.

There was a brief discussion explaining that articles are for capital expenditures. Chuck Heshion and David Taylor to meet separately to discuss.

– **Draft Letter for the Town Report**

David Taylor to forward copies of the Sewer Department section of the report to the Commissioners.

– **Flow Meters. New quotes ? Acquisition options? Time frame for acquisition**

Prices to purchase flow meters are substantial, so we are also gathering pricing from companies to sub out the meters and reporting in conjunction with the effluent meter.

Purchasing and operating our own flow meters would be expensive. We would need to pay for overtime and maintenance through Suez. It may be easier and more cost effective to sub out the whole process, maintenance, liability and reporting. Estimates are ranging about 35-36K for just the effluent flow meter.

We have identified (6) areas that we'd like to monitor.

– **Update Sewer Ordinance**

There was a brief discussion about adding items to the sewer ordinance. (1) before seller conveys property, the sewer lines must be inspected and camera'd prior to the transfer, similar to Title V inspection for septic; (2) require permit for repairs, both residential and commercial; (3) add a time restriction on approved projects (section 24A). Further discussion is needed to figure out the 1st Point of Contact, is it when the Form K is created?

– **Moratorium Modification Discussion. New Business**

David Taylor suggested raising the 11:1 ratio on removing I&I to 15:1. Because the 11:1 was agreed to with the DEP in the 2006 Administrative Order, Chuck Heshion wants approval from EPA and DEP before moving forward.

We need to clarify the starting point to be added to the waiting list. Chuck Heshion states that only (1) project will be approved at a time. The current project will need to reach the 11:1 ratio in removal of I&I before the next project will be approved.

- **Future Funding**

Jennifer Constable and Doug Lapp have agreed to work with us on ARPA funding.

Superintendent Update

- **Boiler Funding**

We've combined leftover funds from several funds into one fund to cover repairs to the digester boiler. The digester boiler keeps our sludge production down. Fees to remove sludge have been climbing as dumping options become more scarce.

We've been approved for \$500K in ARPA funding to pay for (1) replacing the cover on the digester boiler (2) purchase of an effluent meter (3) gas piping in the digester boiler building. Unused article funds for the digester boiler will go back into our general sewer funds.

There was a brief discussion about harnessing re-usable energy form the digester boiler. The furnaces are struggling to keep the buildings heated. Guardian has a funding source through the Green Community Act that we could look into. We used Guardian and a Green Community grant to update all of our lighting at the plant to LED. The cost energy analysis was free, and we've saved 3% on our National Grid expenses as our kilowatt hours have gone down.

- **Ongoing Department Projects**

We are working with the abutters to the Butternut pump station to add a shed, fencing, greenery and a small gravel driveway. The equipment will last longer once it's inside a structure. Once completed, we'll move on to improving the Spruce pump station.

- **Development Projects**

We have no build-out numbers at this time.

The rate study is on-going. We'll be sending more data next week.

Chuck Heshion suggests that we invite them to a future meeting to provide a brief presentation on our infrastructure and plant needs and how that factor into the rate study.

Suez Update

- **EPA Update**

The new State Permit mimics the NPDES permit.

- **NPDES Phosphorous Update**

The project to reduce phosphorous to .1 by chemical addition is the top priority. If Suez can't get it down to .1 with chemicals, then they would like to move to a tertiary system, which would require outside help. The target dates are: 2022 Chemical addition; 2023 design; 2024 construction; deadline April of 2025.

Sewer will provide Suez with a Purchase order for e. coli heater.

– **Staffing**

One new hire will be coming aboard. Meanwhile, Suez has been utilizing an administrative person to collect quotes and other administrative work.

Public Forum

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17 @ 7:00 PM on Zoom.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to adjourn at 8:13 pm. All in favor 2-0.