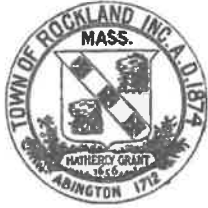


# Town of Rockland

## SEWER COMMISSION



Post Office Box 330  
MASSACHUSETTS 02370

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

Tel. 781.878.1964  
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**Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting**  
**587 R Summer St., Rockland, Ma**

**February 21, 2023**

In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Sherri Vallie, Dan Duross  
Dave Taylor (Highway Dept)

### Introductory Remarks

This is a working session for the sewer commissioners. The public is welcome to attend. There may be votes at this session. It was intended for playback on WRPS public TV but due to technical difficulties that will not be possible. 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 1:05 PM, February 21, 2023 All in favor 3-0.**

### **Approve minutes from last meeting**

No minutes, no vote.

### Administrative Update

Intermunicipal Agreement with Abington is still pending

-60 Green St -garage addition of one bedroom & no bath, same building footprint, Motion to approve addition by Chuck Heshion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dan Duross All in favor 3-0

-333-343 Weymouth St -Chuck has reviewed but remainder of commissioners will review later today, not scheduled

-Dynavac-manholes paved over, will be fixed in spring, letter has been sent

-Baking with Joy company has closed, but new company Fab Five will be taking over the space, this is a change from bakery to restaurant, recommendation is to change frequency of trap inspections to every 3 months, There will need to be a site visit to explain program etc, Fab Five has not been seen by the board yet

-Beech Street, temporary fix is complete, paid with I&I budget account, pipe will need to be extended 640 ft to the culvert, cost estimate to be provided by Dan Del, ongoing problem was exacerbated by heavy rain

-DEP not receiving letters, Rick K will have to update, Chuck will follow up

-Letter sent to Bob Manzella regarding board approval, no fees have been paid, permit has not yet been applied for

-48 Cary St, three unit building planned, no record of betterment paid yet, no plans yet, there was a house previously there, so one stub in existence, but will need another for other units, town is considering purchasing some of the land, so other two units may not be built

- 92R Josh Gray Rd, easement is on Josh Gray road, but the sewer line is from Moncrief Rd, Gary Merrill confirmed stub, still not sure about betterment fees paid, line may require a pump for building
- Carbon Monoxide Detectors, cannot be combined with fire alarm replacements, proposal being prepared for this week
- Dyer St, refund still pending, there was no attendance at scheduled February 2 meeting, Chuck spoke with Mike Gaspar and was notified he should appear before the board regarding change of plans, Ms. Vallie wants to see updated plans
- 258 Union St, still pending
- 109 W Water, Pat Brennan to prepare a report
- NPDES permit & IPP language, Rick K will work with Robyn to make sure chemical language is accurate
- GIS training complete, some changes to be made, need a process on how to make the changes when a new as built is received-Robyn is working on it, additional training is available, I&I Layer would be updated for a field link to show the before & after pictures and flow data for I&I and then that is uploaded to the cloud, Sewer Dept has to coordinate the updating with environmental partners, they can do the updating or the sewer dept can do the updating, a lot of this work is covered by the Asset Mgmt grant
- 601 Hingham, invoices have been submitted to Doug Lapp,

### **Continuation of Old Business**

#### **Asset Management Grant – David Taylor**

Pre-submittal grant from last year, this grant is specifically for GIS updating

For two utilities, sewer and stormwater

Town has to approve total cost of \$279,618 Sewer portion will be either budgetary or article

\$150,000 is reimbursable grant (\$75,000 sewer portion) need a field person to quantify work

\$ 65,000 cash match (\$ 32,500 sewer portion) goes to Environmental Partners to do the updates

\$ 654,618 in-kind services (\$ 32,309 sewer portion) employee or company doing camera work, I&I work, monitoring, - could be Green Mountain work if related to this,

Need to contact Environmental Partners to co-ordinate that work

TOTAL CASH REQUIRED UP FRONT IS \$107,500 FOR SEWER DEPT

-Cash Match could be an article or budget line item earmarked and now is the time to work on budget/articles

-If sewer cannot participate, highway will take the whole grant. Once appropriation is committed and highway is sure sewer dept is on board, the \$150K has to be paid right away,

-Grant application is submitted in June and work can start in October – check with Environmental Partners regarding work we do prior to this timeline if can be applied as in-kind service –

-Will require someone to track work completed, submit the paperwork for reimbursement, work with Scott for separate account (sewer dept puts funds in the acct, expense of work completed paid from that account, reimbursement follows)

-Need to track all the details – picture of site before, during construction and after, flow data before and after, I&I recovered, construction cost, pipe sizes – This would be one of the GIS layers and one of the reimbursement submittals-Weston Sampson and Environmental Partners will coordinate the collection of this information to make in kind services work

-EPG will manage the project, Highway will work on the stormwater, Sewer will work on the sewer items

-Need a letter from the board committing to the project and that funds will be available, NEED LETTER SAP, Notice to Proceed awarded on first come first serve basis

-There is a yearly cost to manage the layers of the GIS system. The more data requires more management, and Environmental Partners charge for managing. This grant would allow some of those services to be reimbursement.

-FUNDING ISF OR FY24 – look at articles and see if some of those funds can be used

\*sounds like this grant will help offset some of the expenses to be incurred with Green Mountain, but it has to be funded up front

## **Articles for Town Meeting Warrant**

- Ordinance draft received is not what we expected, at the meeting it was explained there is an ordinance which is the law, you have the bylaws and you have the rules and regulations – it was expected there would be a bylaw into the ordinance and that the commissioners would have the authority to make changes. The commissioners agreed that is not what was drafted. Ms. Vallie will pursue with Atty Galvin. Mr. Heshion has additional changes to included
- Ms. Vallie met with Capital Planning committee. They had suggestions to rewrite the capital requests, especially a separate item for plant upgrade items. Items submitted for our anticipated costs were requested to be rewritten to show entire cost of the project. Copies of the request forms will be distributed to the commissioners.
- Draft of capital plan was provided by Richard Harris of Capital Planning-Plant upgrade data is included by year
- Upgrade information as revised recently by core group has not been updated to the capital plan. Updated plant information was to create more balanced expenditures and result in 15% unreserved balance, but 12 ½% is more likely. The rate study performed was based on last year's capital planning so that information should include the revised capital plan.
- Phosphorus funds will be needed as of July 2024 for construction for 2025 (have to watch split year fiscal reporting)
- Random Questions: - 3 articles for digester boiler piping (repurpose \$130k in exiting article, authorization to commingle those funds with ARPA funds, need additional funds to cover cost) – Phosphorus system site surveys etc is all inclusive in \$2.5 million – Chlorine system no longer needed in capital plan – last phase of digester boiler should include boiler roof, can remove old article never fulfilled – how long do pump stations last such as butternut good for 30 years – FY2025 electrical work due to corrosion and is not part of phosphorus, covers entire plant, might have to report separately from \$2.5 million – Influent planned for FY 27, 28, 29, 30 to spread cost impact – Capital planning understands these are estimates and will change moving forward
- For the financial articles, it is expected Atty Clifford will write the articles, if required, a meeting will be scheduled through open session accommodating his schedule –
- We will need another article for this asses management grant, or else use funds from development fees – department does not have extra funds – Ms. Vallie will determine if there are any options and what will be part of a new article.

## **Plant Upgrade**

- the longer the upgrade takes, the more expensive it will be. This is evident from price changes over the last three years- the biggest problem will be obtaining key component supplies
- Core team will be meeting at the plant tomorrow to finish narrative, review financial costs timeline, and prepare March 7 presentation
- March 7 presentation to the board will address long term needs for facility upgrade and to start bond request for \$1.5 million along with \$1 million ARPA funds
- \$2.5 million is all inclusive, question on when bond starts as budget must accommodate debt service – it is included in the rate study
- Presentation will include slides, Kevin Olson to attend,
- Facility upgrade is creating a complete system and is not intended to compete with fire station or any other town project. It is being addressed not due to EPA order. The hope is to get this information to the residents in time for May town meeting.
- It Must be recognized that the upgrade is NOT going to provide more capacity. Infrastructure still needs to be discussed separately.
- Upgrade presentation will be also be shown during our monthly meeting.

## **Rate Study**

- Final draft is being revised to spread cost impact over longer time period. Utilizing 12 ½% reserve fund expectation. Recent rate increase made a significant difference. This study will provide residents with

rates over the next 5 -10 years. Both Weston Sampson and Wright Pierce were impressed with what the board has done and sees a great improvement over the last 8 months.

-March 8 or March 9 open meeting to present draft rate study so all parties have a chance to comment and changes if can be accommodated. Every attendee will be given an opportunity to comment and be satisfied with the answer. Notice will be posted on town website

-Commissioners are invited to contact Weston Sampson for clarification of data in the report

-Final study report will be presented to Board of Selectmen when it is completed.

### **EPA**

There was a comment made last June that the town would be fined, it is a matter of how much. It is thought that they are waiting to see how the department is progressing with the commitments made. Documents have been requested from Atty Kenny to validate our progress. Department is hoping to start I&I work prior to May 31 report.

### **Boiler Piping**

Bid spec is being completed. There is a deadline of 6 months to complete the piping as per Mass DEP or else will be shut down as non-compliant. Deadline is end of June. Contract will need to specify completion dates.

### **Generator**

-Not expected to be diesel generator, and will not be propane. Rick K will schedule a meeting next week

### **I&I Rehab Work**

Need to schedule a meeting with Green Mountain to sign contract, suggestion is through Zoom since the company is located in Vermont

Need to have a timeline of when work can start. Will be a kick off meeting as well as contract signing.

Green Mountain will also record flows before and after their work. There will be a company monitoring that work (under contract) and then metering crew.

The goal is to complete the work as quickly as possible so revenue can begin to be generated.

### **Boiler Upgrade**

-Project is closed, invoices authorized for payment, still hoping to negotiate 50/50 split on additional oil costs. The additional oil bills will be submitted as a project override.

-All documentation is complete – Ms. Vallie will submit final invoices to Jen Constable for ARPA reporting.

### **Year 1 Monitoring**

This is part of the annual plan. As each section of piping is completed, flow meters will be installed to monitor improvement. This data is needed for EPA reporting

### **Drawing Review**

17 John Burke Drive and Pleasant St to be reviewed after meeting to be ready for Thursday meeting.

Development Fees & Superintendent to be discussed at next meeting

**Motion made by Dan Duross, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sherri Vallie, to adjourn at 2:20 PM All in favor 3-0.**

Documents to be included:

Draft capital plan

Capital Request Forms as revised

Audio recording of meeting is on file with the Sewer Department

Next working session is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 23, 2023