

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
March 24, 2022



In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Dan Duross, David Taylor, Robyn Day, Rick Kotouch, Kevin Olson of Wright-Pierce, Adam Higgins of Wright-Pierce, Sherri Valli, Lori Childs and Mary Parsons

Introductory Remarks

Chuck Heshion.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to begin the meeting at 7:00 pm, March 24, 2022. All in favor 2-0.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to approve the minutes of February 17. All in favor 2-0.

Abatements

86 Damon Road – mis-applied payment resulted in \$1.58 interest.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to approve abatement of \$1.58. All in favor 2-0.

35 Salem Street – water heater leaked into basement. Documentation provided showing that repair was made, and the water did not enter the sewer system. Water leaked into the ground.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to approve abatement of \$908.47. All in favor 2-0.

Drainlayer License

Mark Moran of Moran Excavation.

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

Superintendent Position Update

We have (4) applicants. Interviews will be scheduled mid to late April, after we have a full board. Chuck Heshion will follow-up with Stacy Callahan on the format and will forward the resumes to Dan Duross.

CWMP Update – Wright Pierce

Kevin Olson, Project Manager, and Adam Higgins, Project Engineer, gave a brief presentation of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, consisting of 3 phases. Conducting a Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan allows us to qualify for low interest funding from various sources.

Phase 1 – Report of existing conditions of the collection system, pipes and treatment plant, problem identification and needs assessment.

Phase 2 – Identifying and reviewing infrastructure and various system types, including septic users.

Phase 3 – Final recommendations and plan with cost estimates.

CWMP Q&A

Sherri Valli – Pond Street: Are we looking at adding new users? There are various options that may be available to possible sewer users to treat wastewater.

Lori Childs – North Ave: What percentage of the town is on septic? A small percentage of residents are on septic. Some residents with difficult topography may never be able to tie in.

Mary Parsons – Union Street: We have some out-of-town users tied into our sewer system; will they be looked at as part of this plan? Will I&I ever be resolved? No answer available at this time.

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Chuck Heshion, to release and post the scope of work and proposal from Wright-Pierce for the CWMP on the town website. All in favor 2-0.

Final Articles for the Town Meeting.

Previously, we re-allocated \$230k in existing article funds toward the Digester Boiler project. Meanwhile, we received ARPA funding (\$515k) for the Digester Boiler project and extra gas piping for the Digester Boiler building which frees up the original \$230k.

Article 32 will transfer \$230k into a new article to cover the cost of the effluent meter required for the new NPDES permit, Inflow & Infiltration and engineering related to both. Combined with the recent addition of a \$10.00 base rate and the \$1.00 rate increase, we should have about \$300k by July 1st to address the requirements of the new NPDES permit.

We are also looking for even more ARPA funding to address NPDES compliance.

We are only doing emergency work right now. We currently have a zero balance in our I&I account and approximately \$32k in Article 71.

We are predicting to have about \$15- \$20k with the recent rate increase by year-end. Overall, we project to have \$75-\$100K left over from the general budget at year-end to be carried over to the enterprise fund.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to accept Article 32 as explained by David Taylor. All in favor 2-0.

David Taylor has earmarked \$500k for FY 2024 and FY 2025 with Capital Planning for NPDES compliance, going forward. This will depend on rates, fees and leftover budget funds.

NPDES Permit

David Taylor has retained Wright-Pierce to help us with NPDES Permit review. The funding to pay for it is coming out of the Superintendent Salary budget. Wright-Pierce has come up with a scope; David Taylor and Rick Kotouch are seeking quotes for the effluent meter; the lab has been updated with new equipment; Suez has received approval on the new chemicals to address the phosphorous compliance and the GIS system (due 2025) is already 3 quarters of the way complete.

The Administrative Consent Order is pending as part of the new NPDES permit. Typically issued 4-5 months after the effective date of the new permit.

Flow Meters

David Taylor is working with Flow Assessments out of NH. They are expected to give us a price next week on installing meters at the following locations: (1) at the school project (2) on George Street (3) by Holy Family School, Delprete and Christine Ave where we've identified I&I.

Update Sewer Ordinance

Special meeting was held on March 3 with Attorney Tony Riley of Bob Galvin's office.

Chuck Heshion gave an overview of the Sewer Ordinance with his suggested changes to clean up and tighten some of the language.

He also does not want the Form K to be the criteria for getting on the waiting list. It was agreed that the language from the Superintendent on the Form K should state that approval is from the Commissioners, pending review of final plans, keeping in mind that some projects can have up to 10 Form K's as projects evolve.

More discussion is needed to determine when a project is added to the waiting list, when and where we can add time constraints for projects to meet sewer deadlines, also being mindful of how much capacity is available given the removal of I&I from the sewer system. The burden should be on each developer.

No Vote until April. The public is encouraged to make suggestions in the Public Forum.

Moratorium Modification Discussion

More discussion is needed to determine when a project is added to the waiting list, when and where we can add time constraints for projects to meet sewer deadlines, also being mindful of how much capacity is available given the removal of I&I from the sewer system.

Chuck Heshion asks that the current and potential Commissioners review his changes in anticipation of a vote on the changes in April or September.

The public is encouraged to make suggestions in the Public Forum. This will be reviewed again in September 2022 per the current Moratorium.

Future Funding Update

David Taylor will be applying for additional ARPA funding to cover the expense of the effluent meter on the back side with the new SCADA system. If he's successful, we could then roll the \$230k towards NPDES compliance.

In the Sewer System Evaluation Study conducted by AECOM it was noted that 8,900 GPD of I&I was identified in a lateral in the area of the school project. David Taylor conducted dry and wet weather camera filming at the manhole and found high I&I during wet weather. He also noted that the water table is high in that area, there was an old drainage line that was left open and there was drainage overflow from the old field, all contributing to the I&I. David Taylor has advised the project manager to build a new manhole structure. The 8,900 GPD should be eliminated with the new school construction and new manhole. David Taylor also noted that all of the older buildings in town were originally allowed to tie their drains and sump pumps into the sewer system. With new MS4 permitting, this is no longer allowed.

AECOM came in at \$8,000. to address the issue but David Taylor feels that it will be addressed with the construction of the new sewer line and manhole. With more camera filming and a bucket test during the construction, he will be able to identify that the 8,900 GPD is eliminated. The only difficulty being that we don't have a manhole upstream to the construction.

Available I&I funds

We raised the I&I budget line item of \$100k to \$200k, moving forward. This does not include any monies for the NPDES permit. We will be able to cover this line item with our recent increase to the rate and the added basic user fee.

A comprehensive rate study is currently being conducted by Weston & Sampson with results expected later this calendar year.

Digester Boiler Project

George T. Wilkinson, Inc. is working on the digester boiler quote for additional gas piping in the digester boiler building. We will get an additional quote from a vendor recommended by National Grid.

Weston & Sampson is working on the Butternut Station.

We are on hold except for emergency repair work right now.

Suez Update

Chuck Heshion states that the contract with Suez is between Suez and the Board of Sewer Commissioners. If a board member reaches out to Suez, they will include the Sewer Superintendent on any correspondence.

The plant has been running well.

Suez has been purchased by Veolia and will be issuing new email addresses and uniforms. There will be no changes to the management team.

No EPA update regarding the new Administrative Consent Order. We should expect that by July.

NPDES permit was issued on February 1 of this year. Dated items include:

Phosphorous study – deadline of 2025 – We are 25% into the chemical process. Rick Kotouch will have a scope of services by next month. By April 1st of 2023 the goal is to get to .1 – we may have to install a tertiary system to get to that point. Phosphorous season ends on October 31. By November, Suez will supply a report to assess the situation. Currently our sludge is increasing due to the increased chemicals to treat the phosphorous. Our sludge press was installed in 1997 and we do not have a back-up press.

Hypochlorite and sodium bisulfite – should be on our SCADA system. If these chemicals drop below acceptable levels or we lose a pump they will now be alarmed through the SCADA via wi-fi. Currently we are not alerted if a pump was lost overnight.

Effluent Flow Meter – deadline of Feb 1, 2023. Suez hopes to have it wrapped up by September of 2022. We will need to install a trench. David Taylor has agreed to have the trench installed with the town covering the cost. Effluent flow meter should also be able to tie into the SCADA.

Butternut Pump Station – still waiting on a couple of parts before we begin the project.

A new hire will be starting on April 11. He has a level 3 license.

On March 2, a worker fell on black ice in the parking lot and was injured. He is back on restricted duty.

Public Forum

Mary Parsons, Union Street - requests a detailed budget of expenses and revenue particularly regarding I&I. She is also requesting information on what we receive in sewer rates? David Taylor states that we will be 15-20k in the positive by year end with the rate revenue. David Taylor will share his weekly budget and revenue report during our next meeting. Next meeting scheduled for April 21, 2022.

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross, to adjourn the meeting and to go into Executive Session; not to return. All in favor 2-0. Roll call taken.

Executive Session

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>