

Town of Rockland SEWER COMMISSION



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

Rockland Sewer Commissioners Meeting
587 R Summer St., Rockland, Ma.
Recorded for Public Playback on WRPS
(local cable access tv)
www.wrpsrockland.com

April 11, 2023

In Attendance: Chuck Heshion, Sherri Vallie, Dan Duross,
Jean Da Silva, resident

Introductory Remarks

This is a working session for the sewer commissioners. The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the chair may be discussed, not all items may be discussed, and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion within the limits of the law. The public is welcome to attend. There may be votes at this session. There will be no public comment except by those parties listed on the agenda

Motion made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Sherri Vallie, to begin the meeting at 2:03 PM, April 11, 2023 All in favor 3-0.

Approve minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes of March 28, 2023 made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Sherri Vallie All in favor 3-0

Continuation of Old Business

New Connections

-335 Beech St – Jean DaSilva applicant explained they would like to build an in-law addition with a kitchen, 1 bedroom and 1 bath totaling 600 sq feet, no crawl space built on slab, house is currently occupied with 4 bedrooms – department would like to see the plans prior to approving-

-333 Weymouth St – applicant is adding one bathroom, email from Eric Schoumaker dated 4-5-23 attested the foundation of the new building will not be located over or on any existing sewer lines – storm drain pipe will be relocated as shown on the plan- Total fees due are \$150 for permit- This address is shown as project for 333-343 Weymouth

Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Sherri Vallie to approve project with fees due of \$150 All in favor 3-0

-Request from Mr. Heshion for reimbursement for printing costs \$93.49 – No department expense form
Motion to approve reimbursement made by Dan Duross, 2nd by Sherri Vallie – passed 2-0 with one abstention

I&I Rehab Work Update

AS of April 7, 2023, SSES Study identified 10,258 linear feet, 2,538 has been examined so far - 39,800 gallons of I&I identified by SSES study, expecting 50% removal and have removed 5,900 so far – worked 15 days with 56 days on contract remaining – Projections expect 112,000 to be removed from original scope of 119,000 gallons- this is based on results so far – laterals have been sealed, pipe lining has not been done

Digester Piping Bid

Bid has been reviewed by Weston Sampson and getting ready to release for scope work – need list of qualifications and material lead time from Wilkinson – Wilkinson has not been awarded the job but is assisting due to past contract overages – materials, licenses time to locate the piping, will be 3 week construction time required – total project time is 150 days – working on cost estimate now prior to putting out for bid – pending cost of bid information – need response from town plumbing inspector as well as confirmation the town will apply for variance with state plumbing board for approval of the pipe material - Schedule is 4/23/23 bid to bid register – 4/26/23 appears on central register – 5/3/23 walk thru at facility – 5/17/23 bid opening –

Generator

Chris Kenny reviewing contract language – waiting for response from town electrician to review the specs – generator will be on a skid permanently mounted – draft with specs is available – this is first step to putting out to bid – hoping for this Friday – 500KW is spec size, same size we have now –

Flow & Effluent Meter

Today is first day flow has been below 3MGD, currently at 2.7 – Problem with effluent meter – Dandel excavated the pit and turbulence is causing misreading on the flow – 2.7 is probably not accurate – 30 inch main discharging from cascades into the brook- with the force of the water hitting flow meter, bubbles causing mis reading – working on getting pipe location worked out to make it more accurate – change in piping means new excavation from cascades at significant cost – going to try lower pipe size and extend pipe further – algorithms for software are not working due to the turbulence – this meter is a requirement of NPDES permit and an EPA condition – Ms. Vallie expressed disappointment it is a new meter that is not working – both effluent and influent flows should be recorded

968 Union St -house torn down and pipe capped – need to send a letter so that drainlayer can excavate and get the work inspected

Board of Selectmen meeting of April 4, 2023

Accusations were made by Ms. Childs concerning superintendent toxic environment, 67,000 I&I work, Primrose refund, and expenses charged to superintendent salary. Mr. Heshion as requested time at the next BOS meeting to address these items. No response yet. Issue with salary has already been addressed. Ms. Vallie stated that Ms. Childs is not presenting the facts correctly and doing so in a manner that defames this board. It needs to be addressed. Ms. Vallie has drafted a letter to address each point that was incorrectly stated. Her most egregious statement was made on March 29 as a town official at a meeting of multi-town groups and referred to the sewer department as a “sh*t show” . Legal action may be taken if she does not stop with these comments. The sewer department still has the right to hire outside legal counsel. Town hall and the sewer department have been working together in a very professional matter. It was suggested Ms. Childs stop looking for grants, but it was agreed that she should forward grant information. It is up to Mr. O’Loughlin as chairman to address the issue.

Motion to send letter by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross All in favor 3-0

Municipal Development Fees

Mr. Heshion would like a plan by the end of the month for assessing municipal fees – suggestion made to put 25% in general funds and 75% in I&I – These fees would be assessed to absorb the absence of new development which is not expected for two years – Growth was not projected in the budget, but user rates will be affected if there is a major equipment failure or major pipe break – The fees would have to be presented to next town meeting or special town meeting in order to be effective for 2025 – Ms. Vallie would like to know what other towns are doing – Charging a basic user rate may be the first step – The sewer department is absorbing the cost of treating that usage – The department is also absorbing the costs of I&I when the town is responsible for pipe maintenance, same as any other resident – It is believed there is a high level of I&I at the new elementary school – There have been only two major construction projects: elementary & Primrose – More discussion to follow

Sewer Ordinance Update

Ordinance all set for town meeting vote

Rules & Regs will need an update after the vote to clarify that additions are only subject to fees and moratorium based on new flow, not new total on the property

Accounting Update

Ms. Vallie and Ms. Day worked on organizing projects with ARPA funding – a checklist has been created for each project – current files were reviewed and information filled on the checklist – Mr. Heshion will review his files for information to be included

Old Projects Pending

365 Concord – no response – scheduled for April 20 meeting – permit will expire after that
Beechwood estates – no response – schedule for May 18 meeting – permit will expire after that
If permit expires, new fees will be applicable, they will lose their place on the waitlist

Superintendent

Guidelines for resumes received were distributed by HR – Not all applications need to be interviewed
There is a candidate of interest the commissioners would like to interview
A previous candidate may be invited to interview as well
The commissioners will revisit the draft job description and prioritize qualities

Monthly Zoom Meetings

Additional discussion will be held during next week's monthly meeting to determine time

Admin Update

- 252 Beech St – drainage running onto property-DTaylor has looked at the area with National Grid, reached out to resident and waiting for response
- Beech Hill repairs- DTaylor to provide summary of repairs
- Center Ave Manholes, Mr. Heshion to contact "District 5" as recommended
- 333 Weymouth St- approved, no issue with lateral, bathroom only
- 91 Josh Gray Rd -hearing at ZBA on April 18 – commissioners' comments due on Thursday
- email sent to town electrician and town Kenny for generator, Doug Lapp has been copied for procurement pending their responses
- 335 Beech St-applicant will provide larger prints for dept, there is no street map for the property, should be camera'd to document, need to add this as condition of permit
- 268 Union St- apartments next to town hall, no addl info
- RotoRooter, no response, not approved with two references
- 978 Union St, Chuck will send letter requesting to be excavated
- Jefferson School Manhole-job is complete-the school was not notified – those workers need to have CORI clearance because on school property-commissioners decided this would be addressed on a job-by-job basis – CORI check is done by town HR department – this would be handled by a superintendent-

- NLX testing, there may be a way to do the testing without actually shutting down the generator- NLX pays us \$10,000 a year
- Approved Waitlist- still pending updated list
- Beechwood is invited to attend a meeting, HOA is the owner of the lots, the bank has the right to develop the properties, this was court decision – Bank is the property owner and wants to build all the lots, but the HOA only wants to build some of the lots
- Dyer St write up still pending from Pat Brennan, there is another issue not involving sewer
- Elementary School – Chuck H is overseeing project and Pat Brennan to advise when flow can be looked at, need the flows to go down-it is suspected there is an abnormally high I&I problem
- Dynavac manholes in parking lot-Chuck to follow up with phone call
- IPP program still pending – Shuck will follow up on adding dental and car washes
- I&I Rehab work two week schedule-work does not always match up to the schedule – Robyn is tracking where they are using the police detail tickets
- Part Time Clerk -Job has been posted internally – Position will be posted externally after April 17 – At that time any applications from the Water Department may be reviewed-the posting was submitted as “at 19 hours” it should be “up to 19 hours” Ms. Vallie will contact HR to make the correction to 14 – 19 hours-
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Motion made by Chuck Heshion, 2nd by Dan Duross to adjourn at 3:21 PM All in favor 3-0.

Documents to be included:

04-04-2 email from Eric Schoumaker regarding 333 Weymouth St

Next working session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2023 Zoom