



TOWN OF KINGSTON
Office of the Sewer Commission/Wastewater Department
26 Evergreen Street
Kingston, MA 02364

781-585-4058
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Elaine A. Fiore
Peter C. Cobb
Sean M. Walsh

Sewer Commission Minutes
July 15, 2008, 7:00 pm
Town Hall, Room 201

In Attendance: Commissioners Elaine Fiore, Peter Cobb, & Sean Walsh.
WWTF Supt. Ken Vandal. CDM reps. Tom Morgan & Jerry St. Hilaire.
Thorndike Develop. reps. Lloyd Geisinger, Kara Brewton & Lindsey Wilson.
Dan Sapor, Kingston Observer.

7:00 pm Ms. Fiore opened the meeting.
Department bills totaling \$2609.93 for FY 2008 and \$3527.34 for FY 2009 were signed. A connection application was signed.

Ms. Fiore Moved to accept the meeting minutes of March 11, April 22, May 20, May 28 and June 17. Mr. Cobb seconded, all voted in approval.

Ms. Fiore reviewed the meeting with the Assessors Office that took place at 4:15 today. She said they discussed the loss of revenue to the Wastewater Enterprise Fund of approximately \$89,624.00 in unassessed interest on Phase 2 sewer betterments. Mr. Judge said they will try to bill the interest on the second quarter FY 2009 tax bill. He will ask Diane for help with this. They also discussed ongoing billing problems that are being tracked by the Sewer Commission office. Mr. Judge said he will try to work with the Office of the Collector to establish another system for obtaining payoffs so people are not continued to be billed after payoffs are made. The Town Allocated Costs of 3.5 % of personnel costs paid by the Enterprise Fund were discussed. Mr. Judge would agree to a reduction of these costs.

The Board reviewed the new Town Financial Guidelines for Enterprise Funds issued by the Treasurer. Ms. Fiore said that the State hearing for bill #2690 that calls for Special Legislation to allow for the taking of \$200,000.00 from the Enterprise Fund to be transferred to the General Fund is continued to July 17, 2008. She will follow up on that.

The Feasibility study on the Wind Turbine has been studied by Mr. Cobb, who cites safety concerns due to the proximity of the wastewater plant and concerns over the legalities of a Town financed project that will give the benefit of the energy generated to an Enterprise Fund.



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Ms. Fiore noted that Mr. Tonsberg has applied again for an abatement on his most recent sewer user fees. A copy of his letter has been sent to Jonathan Silverstein at Kopelman & Paige.

The Board discussed the Membrane Technology viewed at their visit to the Cohasset Wastewater Treatment Plant. They concurred that the benefits were a smaller footprint and cheaper initial construction costs. Detrimental aspects were higher maintenance costs, with replacement membranes running \$50,000 each. They must all be replaced at the same time to operate properly. Operating costs with MBR systems were also more than the SBR technology because of high energy use bills. The system runs 24 hours continuously. Ms. Fiore gave Mr. Geisinger some literature comparing SBR vs. MBR technology.

Mr. Geisinger spoke about wanting to get “facts” on several different operating systems from a neutral engineering firm. He’d like to explore other options besides an SBR system. Mr. Geisinger is prepared to pay \$50,000.00 for a study outlined in a proposal he supplied called “Request for Qualifications” that was emailed to Ms. Fiore. Copies were distributed to all Sewer Commissioners at the meeting. Mr. Geisinger would like the study to find the best and most economical system for his needs and the plant expansion. Ms. Fiore agreed that an economical solution is needed by the Sewer Commission also as we do not currently know if the State will allow the Town to take \$200,000.00 of our Retained Earnings that were earmarked for our expansion.

Mr. Geisinger said one of the positive factors of the MBR technology, for him, was that it allowed for incremental increases in use. Mr. Geisinger asked if anyone had spoken with DEP about MBR plants. Ms. Fiore had emailed them but hasn’t gotten a response yet. Ms. Fiore said the Board is maintaining an open mind regarding other technologies. The plant in Cohasset was built in the late 60’s, but the MBR technologies are new. Mr. Vandal said that the operator has only replaced the membranes once. That plant uses 6 membranes. Mr. Cobb asked Mr. Geisinger if he knew what went wrong at Pine Hills, causing the discharge in 2005. Mr. Geisinger did not know. Mr. Vandal had read that an uncapped pipe was the problem, not the operating system. Mr. Geisinger suggested that Weston & Sampson could be a possible neutral engineering firm for the study. He reiterated that he was willing to fund a study as long as a satellite plant was being considered as one of the options. Mr. Geisinger will pay for this study above what was originally appropriated for engineering studies. Ms. Fiore said they will continue to explore MBR technology.



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Mr. Morgan asked Mr. Geisinger if price was the only issue he had with CDM. He responded that he had a problem with the 18 million dollar price and engineering fee and wants other options priced out.

Ms. Fiore asked Mr. Geisinger about the MORE Grant program that he had given Kevin Donovan information about. The MORE Grant program provides infrastructure money for private/public partnerships that provide 100 full time jobs for 5 years.

Mr. Morgan was asked about the elevations on four sewer services on Tremont St. He thinks the best solution would be to drop the chimneys for them. On the CVS property it looks like the building is close to the property line so the service was placed on the other side. Mr. Morgan will be calling a meeting to discuss Riverside Dr. on next Monday between 9:30 -10:00 am.

Mr. St. Hilaire did some troubleshooting on MBR systems while in Arizona and he said a problem they have is that you can't do a by-pass once the membranes foul. If the air scrubbers aren't cleaning the membranes, you have to use hypochlorite and that kills everything. He said that the operator is locked into the programming and can't make adjustments with a MBR system. He said that the MBR's require constant analysis.

Mr. Sapir asked about Mr. Geisinger's interest in MBR systems after a MOU was signed for a plant expansion using SBR's. He agreed with Ms. Fiore's earlier statement that an agreement needs to be reached. Mr. Sapir said that Phase 1 of development of apartments and condos for 1021 Kingston's Place is to begin with gravel removal next to the MBTA station in an old easement area.

Ms. Fiore moved to adjourn. Motion seconded by Mr. Walsh.
All members voting in favor.
8:10 Meeting Adjourned

Diane Poirier
Department Secretary