



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

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Elaine A. Fiore
Peter C. Cobb
Thomas W. Taylor, II

Minutes
January 26, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners was called to order by Elaine Fiore at 7:00 PM. Members attending tonight were Elaine Fiore, Peter Cobb and Thomas Taylor.

A department bill schedule was reviewed and signed totaling \$5912.37. Sewer bill adjustments totaling -\$1832.37 were approved and signed.

A building permit application for the Kennedy-Donovan Center at 32 Crescent Street was reviewed. The sewer connection is shown in a new location. The site plan that was submitted on an earlier date had shown the sewer connection in the same location as the existing house at 32 Crescent Street. The new building should use the same connection and not cut a new connection into the sewer on Crescent Street. Mr. Vandal spoke to Mr. Armstrong about this discrepancy and Mr. Armstrong indicated that they intend to use the existing sewer connection for the new building. The Sewer Commission asked that a memo be sent to Mr. Armstrong, with the unsigned permit application, stating that the Board will approve the permit application once the plans have been changed to show the sewer connection in the original location.

The Finance Committee has scheduled the Sewer Commission for their meeting on February 25, 2010. They have asked that all departments include a 3% budget reduction in their submittals for fiscal year 2011. The 3% reduction the Sewer Commission has included means eliminating the 3rd wastewater operator's position from the budget. The Sewer Commission and Mr. Vandal will request that this position be kept in the budget. The meeting will be posted.

The Sewer Commission discussed the need to retain the surplus revenue for various department needs including reserving a portion of the surplus funds for the addition of a third SBR in the near future. A rate stabilization/emergency fund that could be used for emergency repairs was discussed. Mr. Vandal discussed permitting of a third SBR. DEP would most likely permit the construction of the third SBR conditionally that it be used for redundancy and not for additional sewer capacity until such time that there was a new effluent disposal site available and permitted to receive additional flow.

The Sewer Commission adjourned the regular meeting to the Capital Planning meeting in Room 203 at 7:11 PM. The meeting reconvened at 7:12 PM at the Capital Planning meeting. Mr. Vandal discussed that he was seeking to replace the aeration system in both SBRs with a new more durable system. Ms. Fiore said the Sewer Commission was attending the meeting to see if approval of the Capital Planning Committee was needed for this project. It is an emergency repair. Mr.



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Vandal continued that the parts alone will cost approximately \$63,000.00 for the replacement of 360 diffusers in each tank. He described and demonstrated the existing system and the problems with it being unstable. He has already taken the tanks down twice to repair the system. It costs \$10,000.00 to replace 360 diffusers. The plan is to replace the current system with a sturdier system that is supported better. Both tanks are currently having problems and are in need of repair again. The problem with the aeration system is due mainly to vibration caused by the air passing through the diffusers. A system utilizing a more substantial support system and diffuser assembly would greatly reduce the problem. Mr. Vandal explained that only 1 tank can be repaired at a time because there is no reserve tank available. Since both tanks are having problems he hopes to get the repairs done before either tank has a major failure. Ms. Fiore stated that CDM has offered to write the specifications for the new system if needed. The Sewer Commission plans to fund this project with surplus revenue. A written estimate has been requested from Sanitaire. Current estimates are that it will cost \$63,000.00 for the parts and possibly another \$10,000.00 to \$20,000.00 each for the installation. Mr. Veracka stated that he didn't feel there was any need for Town Meeting to approve this project as it is an emergency repair being funded with surplus revenue. The Capital Planning Committee can recommend favorable action now. If there is no borrowing involved it does not need approval. Mr. Veracka made a motion that the Capital Planning Board recommends favorable action for this project stating that it will be funded by surplus revenue. The Committee voted to recommend favorable action. See the Capital Planning minutes for the official vote.

Mr. Vandal also discussed the need for a 3rd SBR. Ms. Fiore added that a 3rd SBR would cost about 7 million dollars. The Sewer Commission would like to allocate about \$850,000.00 in surplus revenue for the design, construction, etcetera for this project. The remaining surplus revenue would go into an emergency fund. The Sewer Commission would need to borrow to construct the SBR. Mr. Cobb added that the 40R development has agreed to provide funding to assist the project if their project ever moves forward. Ms. Fiore continued that the Surplus revenue was being held each year in anticipation that the 40R would start on schedule and the SBR project would have been started by now. The funds from the 40R would have been applied toward the Town's share of the cost of the project. The 40R is to reimburse the Sewer Commission for the design of the SBR project and provide new leaching fields. Once the leaching fields are available then new capacity could be taken immediately if the 3rd SBR were already built. The SBR would provide about 150,000 gallons of additional capacity and the discharge site would double the current discharge capability. At present the leaching fields would be held up pending the 40R project. It would cost about 1.2 million dollars to construct the leaching fields. There is leaching capacity at the Transfer Station for up to 125,000



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gallons per day but studies would have to determine exactly how much. If the Sewer Commission has to construct a discharge site then the Transfer Station would be the most economical site.

SCADA was discussed briefly. Mr. Vandal mentioned that it gives the staff the ability to monitor the WWTF remotely. The software has just been upgraded. The Capital Planning Committee reviewed that there were no trucks needed in fiscal year 2011 and that one is scheduled for replacement in 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM and reconvened in Room 201 at 7:42 PM. Mr. Vandal discussed that the SBR repairs are an emergency as there is no way to tell when the aeration system will fail in either tank. He would have to try to use the mixer to aerate the tank. The current system is Aqua Aerobics, which has worked well in other applications but not in the SBRs.

The Board asked that a letter be written to Mark Guidoboni to notify him that the Sewer Commission and CDM did not feel the lots off Thomas Street is a viable option for a new discharge site and thanking him for his interest in a site for a new discharge area.

Mr. Vandal discussed SCADA stating that the plant is set up to be monitored via the internet. Mr. Vandal is also planning to switch from the current data circuit communications system, used to communicate between the Rocky Nook and Jones River pump stations and the Treatment Plant, to a radio communications system.

The Board discussed reducing the user rate again. The best timing for a change would be on the May, June, July bill that is mailed in September. This would allow an announcement to go out with the Feb, Mar, April bill that is mailed in June. Some analysis will be done before any changes are made.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Thomas Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 PM. The motion was unanimously voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant