



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, Jr.

DRAFT
Minutes
March 9, 2010

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

Department bills were signed totaling \$9153.10 as was the fuel bill totaling \$660.92. Several betterment lien release forms were signed and will be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Thomas Taylor, to reduce the sewer use rate from the current rate of \$10.50 per thousand gallons of water consumed to \$10.40 per thousand gallons of water consumed. The motion was unanimously voted. A public announcement will be placed in the local paper to notify customers of the new rate and the back of the water/sewer bills being mailed out in March 2010 will also detail the rate change. It will become effective on May 1, 2010 and will appear on the September water/sewer bills.

Ms. Fiore reported that she had been contacted by Stephen Smith of GeoHydroCycle regarding work they have done for the 40R project and the Davis leaching field site. Ms. Fiore asked if the Board would like to pursue this any further to see what information they have to date. Do they have any more information than the survey CDM did for Phase 1 sewer? Are they looking for compensation for any information they do have? How long would any new survey work be good for before DEP would require a new survey? The Board decided that Ms. Fiore should contact Mr. Smith and notify him that the Sewer Commission will get in touch with him once they have more information from DEP.

On the same topic, Ms. Fiore said that she had heard from Don Freeman and that he has suggested the Sewer Commission schedule another meeting with DEP to discuss what the next step should be in the plant expansion process. Ms. Fiore will contact DEP about scheduling a meeting on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Town Meeting Articles were discussed briefly. There will be an article on the warrant for the Sewer Commission to seek funding for the plant expansion. Funding approval would be the next step to be shovel ready for the next round of stimulus funding. The Board will also ask that \$850,000.00 in surplus revenue be allocated for the expansion, including design, which has been estimated at \$300,000.00. The remaining surplus revenue of \$225,000.00 will be allocated to a maintenance account. The Board discussed whether they should look into permitting a leaching field under the transfer station in order to provide additional disposal capability. Ms. Fiore will look into scheduling a meeting with DEP as previously mentioned.



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Ms. Fiore discussed the sewer manhole located on private property near the intersection of the paper street called Charles Street and Oak Street. She said that the current owners were not the original owners of the property when the sewer connections were completed. She would like to contact them to let them know that the manhole was put in as part of the private sewer connection installation at the property owner's request, is located on private property, and that they are responsible for maintaining it. Mr. Vandal stated that the manhole is not deep and that if there should ever be a problem with a blockage that it would be a simple matter to clean it. Letters will be written to the new owners.

The Inn at Plymouth Bay has filed for bankruptcy. Jill Myers is looking into the matter. There is quite a large balance of overdue water/sewer charges dating back to 2008 that are still owed for this property.

John Candito, owner of 126 Summer Street, has requested a waiver of a fine assessed to him for failure to connect the property to the sewer. He plans to connect the property as soon as his drain layer can be licensed and estimates it will be done by the end of March. Kristin Wilson also has requested a waiver of a fine assessed to 146 Summer Street. She recently inherited the property from a parent and is in the process of catching up on these matters. She has applied for the connection loan but it cannot be approved until the taxes are up to date. The plan is to connect by May. The Board decided to allow Mr. Candito until the end of March to connect pending approval of his drain layer and to allow Ms. Wilson until the end of May.

Mr. Cobb spoke about a meeting he had with the owner of 15 Oak Street, that is still not connected to the sewer. She has promised to have the connection done by August. An earlier court appearance for fines that had been issued indicated that she had a financial hardship. The Board agreed to withhold fines so that the money can be used to connect the house to the sewer.

Mr. Vandal reported that he has a septage hauler that owes \$9000.00 in overdue septage fees. He had been making payments toward a \$12,000.00 balance but has stopped making payments. He has been contacted about this several times already. Mr. Vandal would like to try contacting him one more time and if he does not get a positive response to pursue the matter further and seek other methods of collection. The Sewer Commission approved this plan.

The Board reviewed an Infiltration and Inflow flier developed by the office administrative assistant. They discussed adding something about inspecting for sump pumps and decided that this information should not be added to the flier. The content was approved as presented and the Board agreed that it should be sent out to the sewer customers.

Ms. Fiore asked if the Board felt that they should hold an annual informational meeting this year. The Board has been holding these meetings each year. Since there are no new projects pending and the rates have been reduced once



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and will be reduced again in May it did not seem that the annual meeting is needed this year. An announcement of the rate change will be published in the paper.

The Board discussed the Thorndike 40R reserve account. The Sewer Commission had retained about \$5000.00 in the account for future bills. Tom Bott is requesting approval to use funds from other department reserve accounts to pay some outstanding invoices related to the 40R project. The Sewer Commission should send a memo to Tom Bott, Joan Paquette and Jill Myers detailing costs the Sewer Commission has incurred in legal fees for contract negotiations and revised engineering for the plant expansion to see if the funds can be retained as compensation for the charges that were billed in relation to the 40R Agreement.

Ms. Fiore discussed alternative energy. Mary O'Donnell has contacted Ms. Fiore to request a report on how much energy is used at the Wastewater Treatment Facility and how much sludge is produced in the treatment process. Mr. Vandal has provided the information she requested and Ms. O'Donnell's engineers are reviewing it. Ms. O'Donnell has not stated what she has in mind.

MOTION, by Thomas Taylor, seconded by Peter Cobb, to approve the minutes of February 23, 2010. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Cobb voted to approve the motion. Ms. Fiore abstained as she was not present at the meeting.

MOTION, by Thomas Taylor, seconded by Peter Cobb, to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM. The motion was unanimously voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant