



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
Thomas W. Taylor, Jr.

Minutes
December 1, 2009

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

The quarterly billing commitment was signed totaling \$300,552.62. Department bills totaling \$31,680.29 were approved and signed as was a Nextel bill totaling \$119.64 and a schedule for the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds totaling \$77.00.

Several sewer fines for failure to connect to the municipal sewer were signed as well as reminder letters to some other property owners that are nearing their connection deadlines.

A building permit for 11 North Street was reviewed. The permit proposes converting a 1 bedroom, 1 bath ranch into a 2 bedroom, 1 bath ranch by adding a small addition. There is capacity for the addition of the second bedroom. The permit was approved.

A letter to 10 Adams Avenue was reviewed and sign. The letter reminds the property owner that the house has never been connected to the sewer and that he is required to hire a licensed drain layer to connect it during the remodeling of the home.

MOTION, Elaine Fiore, seconded by Peter Cobb, to approve the minutes for November 17, 2009. The motion was unanimously approved.

Ms. Fiore reviewed that the office had received a complaint regarding the betterment that has been billed to a substandard size lot in the East Avenue, Howland's Lane area. The same property owner questioned betterments that are billed to 2 other lots that they claim had drainage easements placed on them during the sewer project and are now wet. The owner has been told to submit something in writing to the Sewer Commission but has never done so. Ms. Poirier researched the properties and has found drainage easements dating back to 1938 for a drainage project done by the WPA. The 3 lots are owned separately. A letter should be written and sent to all 3 property owners explaining the betterment assessments and the drainage easements, referring any questions about the drainage easement to Mr. Basler. A memo to Paul Armstrong has been reviewed and he has determined that one of the lots is unbuildable and the other 2 might be buildable upon further review. Ms. Fiore said she would seek an opinion from Town Counsel regarding whether the betterment should continue to be billed on the unbuildable lot, since the period for abatements has passed.



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The meeting schedule for 2010 was reviewed as was the final proposed Wastewater budget for 2011. Copies of the budget worksheets were provided to each Board member for review. Ms. Fiore discussed that all departments have been asked to prepare their budgets to include a 3% decrease across the board in order for the Finance Committee to determine what the impact of such a budget decrease would mean to each department. The Wastewater budget did not meet the 3% decrease request. The Board discussed eliminating the 4th operator position that is currently not filled due to the hiring freeze. This could be done to meet the 3% decrease request but an explanation should be provided that if DEP should mandate a 4th operator that the funding for the position would no longer be available. The position would have to be filled whether funded or not. Mr. Vandal also mentioned that he would check all of the staff classifications to be sure they are all correct and funded accurately. The budget has already been cut to the very bottom level possible. A second sewer rate decrease should be considered a budget cut as well since it is proposed for some time in 2010 and would mean less revenue for FY 2011. The regularly scheduled overtime budget is about \$21,000.00. Including unscheduled overtime it is increased to about \$23,000.00. This cannot be decreased any further. Ms. Fiore and Mr. Vandal will review this matter further.

Mr. Vandal said that he has contacted Sanitaire to come to the WWTF to give an estimate to replace the aeration system in Tank 2 but has not received a response from them. He plans to take the tank down and make temporary repairs.

The pump station at Maple Avenue had the second pump replaced today. The work took all day because the wiring on the pump was not the same as the wiring on the original pump. This is just part of the problem that has risen from the replacement of the pump. Flanges and screws also did not fit properly and had to be special ordered. All of these unforeseen problems increased the cost of replacing the pump.

The replacement of the lateral at 163 Summer Street is finished. The manhole has been cored and the work was done very well. The connection to the building still needs to be completed and Chief Heath has agreed to extend the trench permit for the drain layer. Mr. Vandal will contact the drain layer to see when this connection is planned for completion.

Mr. Basler contacted Mr. Vandal today regarding the sewer connection being done at 140 Summer Street. He said he saw the drain layer digging under the sidewalk and was very concerned that the sidewalk would cave in over the winter. Mr. Vandal explained that it was not the drain layer's fault that the stub was too short and that the excavation was necessary to connect the house to the sewer. The connection is mandatory. Mr. Basler wanted to know who would be responsible for the sidewalk if there is a problem.



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Ms. Poirier reviewed that the sewer betterment lien has still not been released for 91 Main Street. The attorney paid \$4081.00 in July but the Collector called him after receiving the payment and told him that another quarterly payment was still outstanding. The attorney said he would not pay any more money and the last quarterly installment has since been paid on the tax bill. No payoff report has been provided for it. There are 10 open Warrants awaiting payoff reports. Ms. Fiore stated that a letter should be sent to the attorney, the property owner and the Town Administrator explaining this matter.

Ms. Poirier reported that she has filed an application for Community Preservation funding to purchase some vacant property along Leigh Rd. in order to preserve open space. One of the owners of the property is Dean Satterfield. Mr. Satterfield is currently on the waiting list for sewer capacity. Since Ms. Poirier has applied for funding to seek purchasing his land as part of her application, she will not be involved with any questions regarding his request for sewer capacity. Mrs. Richards maintains the waiting list and will handle any calls regarding Mr. Satterfield's request.

Jill Myers distributed an Emergency Response Pandemic Plan via email this week. Each member has been given a DRAFT copy of this plan for review. Each department is requested to provide a line of succession in list form so that in the event of widespread absenteeism the functions of each department can be maintained as well as possible.

Ms. Fiore discussed that the Green Energy Committee has received site constraint maps from Weston and Sampson that will be reviewed by the Green Energy Committee at their meeting on December 3, 2009. Mr. Cobb stated that he would attend the meeting to see what areas Weston and Sampson has determined are feasible to site the turbine.

Ms. Fiore said that she had spoken to representatives of the Coastal Zone Management group during a review of the embankment along Rocky Nook Avenue. They stated at the site review that the embankment was in failure and is not expected to last 20 years. Ms. Fiore suggested looking into applying for Grant funding to remediate this problem in order to protect the sewer infrastructure in the area.

MOTION, by Elaine Fiore, seconded by Thomas Taylor, to go into Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation and negotiations and not to return to the regular meeting. A roll call vote was taken resulting in Ms. Fiore, Mr. Cobb and Mr. Taylor all voting in favor of the motion.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant