



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
March 22, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Sewer Commissioners and Public Hearing to review revisions of the Sewer Rules and Regulations Adopted July 19, 2005 Revised March 22, 2011 was held in Room 200 of the Town Hall, 26 Evergreen Street at 7:00 P.M. Members in attendance were Elaine Fiore, Peter Cobb and Thomas Taylor. Also in attendance was Superintendent, Ken Vandal. Ms. Fiore called the meeting and Public Hearing to order at 7:00 P.M.

Documents provided to the public were the Rules and Regulations Adopted July 19, 2005 Revised March 22, 2011, a summary sheet of the changes to the articles within the revised document, the meeting agenda and a diagram of the proposed leaching field at the transfer station. All of these documents are on file at the Sewer Commission office.

Ms. Fiore read the Hearing notice as published in the Kingston Reporter. She discussed the Rules and Regulations, reviewed each revision and provided an explanation of each. During the discussion Mr. Vandal was asked to explain the need to keep prohibited substances out of the pump stations. The most problem causing substances are dental floss, disposable wipes and cleaning cloths and disposable gloves. These substances can block the pumps and they require the Department to call in pump trucks to clean them out of the wet wells at an expense of from \$300.00 to \$450.00 per month. Some stations require this almost weekly. During discussion of septage, Mr. Vandal explained that revenue received from taking in septage helps pay for maintenance. They are currently replacing the aeration system in one of the tanks. When replacement is complete in both tanks it will cost about \$100,000.00. This project was funded by surplus revenue that came from septage revenue. Ms. Fiore added that septage revenue has contributed about \$100,000.00 each year toward the operating budget. Without this the rates would be higher. General questions from the audience were answered.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Elaine Fiore, to close the Public Hearing and continue the regular meeting. The motion was unanimously voted.

Ms. Fiore reviewed the layout of the leaching field at the Transfer Station and stated the project was in the permitting stage. The work will be paid for by surplus revenue. It has passed the MEPA review and the next step is to meet with DEP to determine if the hydro-geological studies from Phase 1 are acceptable for this project. The project should be bid by the Town Streets, Trees and Parks Department as one project. This is being coordinated between the Sewer Commission and Paul Basler so that the sewer work can be done when the Transfer Station is reconfigured. Ms. Fiore also discussed that items for a plant expansion



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appear on the diagram because they have already been discussed with DEP. If an expansion were done the projects currently on the waiting list for capacity would fund the project. It will not be built at the added cost to the current customers.

Ms. Fiore discussed that the Sewer Commission would have 3 Articles on the Town Meeting Warrant on April 2, 2011. Article 9 is to approve the department budget. Article 10 will allocate \$310,000 +/- in surplus revenue for various uses. Article 11 is for land acquisition, to acquire land in lieu of unpaid user fees.

A resident asked why the Sewer Commission felt the need to charge a service charge on the water/sewer bill. Ms. Fiore explained that the department needs to guarantee that a minimum amount of money will be collect toward covering the budget. The service charge is going to be reduced in 2012 from \$25.00 per quarter to \$15.00 per quarter so every customer will save \$40.00 annually.

A resident asked if the sewer rates would increase if outside watering was not included in the sewer billing. If the Water Department allowed separate meters would the sewer rate increase? He was told that the sewer rates would increase because the Sewer Commission would need to charge a rate that would be sufficient to cover the operating budget. So if they needed \$100,000.00 and were billing for 100,000 gallons it would be \$1.00/gal. If they were billing only 50,000 gallons then it would be \$2.00/gal.

A resident mentioned that it was expensive to fill a swimming pool. Mr. Cobb suggested looking into having a tanker truck fill the pool instead of Town water. It would save on their water and sewer charges and may be cheaper per gallon to get the water for the pool that way.

Ms. Fiore mentioned that the Sewer Commission is always looking for ways to reduce costs to the customers. She asked Mr. Vandal to discuss the Enernoc Demand Response Program. When the grid has a period of high demand they will ask the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) to come off the grid and use the generator for power. The WWTF receives money from Enernoc just to be on stand-by status. The money received is enough to cover the maintenance cost of all of the generators on the sewer system. Most of the smaller generators at the pump stations hold about 80 gallons of fuel and can run about 1 to 2 weeks. The large generator at the plant holds about 2000 gallons of fuel and can operate the plant for about a week.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Thomas Taylor, to adopt the Sewer Rules and Regulations Adopted July 19, 2005 Revised March 22, 2011. The motion was unanimously voted.



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MOTION, by Thomas Taylor, seconded by Peter Cobb, to reduce the sewer service charge from \$25.00 per quarter to \$15.00 per quarter beginning with the September 2011 bill. The motion was unanimously voted.

The Board briefly discussed the plans to add an office to the third floor of 17 Rocky Nook Avenue. The contractor has scheduled an appointment to meet with the Sewer Commission on April 5, 2011 at 7:15 PM.

The Board discussed the Deed Restriction on 5 Braintree Avenue. The minutes of the meetings with the property owner have been researched and based on the minutes a letter should be written to the property owner stating that the Deed Restriction was required because the garage apartment would have created a second living unit on one parcel. It was not based on the number of bedrooms in the house.

MOTION, by Peter Cobb, seconded by Thomas Taylor, to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM. The motion was unanimously voted.

Suzanne Richards
Administrative Assistant