



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

781-585-4058
781-831-6783 FAX

Elaine A. Fiore - Chair
William Watson – Vice Chair
Brian M. Donahoe

Minutes 04/15/25

The sewer commissioners meeting on April 15 discussed recent equipment failures, including two effluent pumps and VFDs. Repairs and replacements were made, and a ticket was opened with Schneider for further assessment. The team is planning internal plumbing changes to prevent future issues. The budget and special assessments for FY26 were reviewed, highlighting a \$14 million debt and a \$7 million project cost. The special assessment for the leaching field will be discussed at a public hearing in May. Concerns were raised about the fairness of charging existing users for new infrastructure costs, and the need for clear documentation and legal compliance was emphasized.

Action Items

- [] Open a ticket with Schneider to assess the failed VFD.
- [] Reach out to Ken to coordinate with Kelly and Ryan on running the special assessment file through Munis.
- [] Schedule a public hearing in May to set the betterment special assessment amount.
- [] Follow up with the water commissioners on the potential moratorium.
- [] Provide written clarification on the language used in the budget article regarding the Mass Clean Water Trust.

Outline

Sewer Commissioners Meeting Introduction and Initial Updates

- Elaine Fiore opens the sewer commissioners meeting on April 15, mentioning the need to wait for the ground bill before reviewing meeting minutes.
- David Walsh provides an update on recent chaos, including two effluent pumps failing over the weekend and the need for new equipment from upgrades.
- David Walsh explains the status of the VFDs and pumps, mentioning the need to open a ticket with Schneider for assessment.
- Brian Donahoe inquires about the warranty status of the new equipment, and David Walsh confirms it is likely not covered under warranty.

Technical Issues and Troubleshooting



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

781-585-4058

781-831-6783 FAX

Elaine A. Fiore - Chair
William Watson – Vice Chair
Brian M. Donahoe

- David Walsh details the technical issues with the VFDs and pumps, including bound bearings and amp issues.
- David Walsh mentions the plan to gravity flow waste to the leaching field under the transfer station if necessary.
- David Walsh discusses internal changes to the plumbing system to prevent future issues.
- Brian Donahoe suggests approaching the manufacturers for a closer look at the defects, and David Walsh explains the current troubleshooting efforts with CDM.

Labor Interviews and Administrative Tasks

- David Walsh updates on ongoing labor interviews and the process of checking references.
- Elaine Fiore mentions the injured individual's upcoming evaluation and the progress on administrative tasks related to the town meeting and budget.
- Elaine Fiore discusses the work being done by Aaron on property assessments and the importance of getting the file format correct.
- Elaine Fiore outlines the plan for a special assessment file to be ready by May 8 for validation and final submission.

Special Assessment and Budget Discussions

- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the special assessment for the leaching field and the connection fee for new users.
- Brian Donahoe suggests using the term "infrastructure assessment" to cover ongoing maintenance costs.
- Elaine Fiore explains the legal limitations on charging betterments and the need for a public hearing to set the special assessment amount.
- Kathleen Barrette raises concerns about the fairness of charging existing users for the entire leaching field project and the potential impact on new users.

Financial Planning and Legal Considerations

- Kathleen Barrette emphasizes the importance of having reasonable and proportional assessments that are legally defensible.



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

781-585-4058

781-831-6783 FAX

Elaine A. Fiore - Chair
William Watson – Vice Chair
Brian M. Donahoe

- Elaine Fiore and Kathleen Barrette discuss the need for clear documentation and communication with the town council to ensure the financial plan is understood.
- Kathleen Barrette clarifies that the special assessments will not fund the FY 26 budget but will help cover debt service and infrastructure costs.
- Elaine Fiore and Kathleen Barrette agree to work together to finalize the budget and special assessment amounts for the upcoming town meeting.

Water Commissioners Meeting and Moratorium Concerns

- Brian Donahoe updates on the water commissioners meeting, where concerns about cash flow and betterments were discussed.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the possibility of a moratorium and the need for a consent order without penalty to avoid it.
- Brian Donahoe explains the process of conducting a sanitary survey of the town's water system to address concerns.
- Brian Donahoe highlights the importance of expediting the construction of a new well to alleviate the moratorium and support future development.

Project Timelines and Development Plans

- David Walsh discusses the timeline for project completion and the impact on cash flow and development plans.
- Brian Donahoe emphasizes the need for clear communication with the business community to encourage development and tax revenue.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discuss the importance of having a year-long lead time for new projects to ensure smooth development.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the involvement of the Kingston Business Association in promoting the town's development opportunities.

Finalizing the Budget and Special Assessment Plans

- Elaine Fiore and Kathleen Barrette discuss the final steps for setting the special assessment amount and ensuring it is legally defensible.
- Kathleen Barrette emphasizes the need for clear documentation and communication with the town council to avoid confusion.
- Elaine Fiore and Kathleen Barrette agree to work together to finalize the budget and special assessment amounts for the upcoming town meeting.



TOWN OF KINGSTON

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

781-585-4058

781-831-6783 FAX

Elaine A. Fiore - Chair

William Watson – Vice Chair

Brian M. Donahoe

- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the importance of having a clear financial plan to support ongoing projects and future development.