



TOWN OF KINGSTON
Office of the Sewer Commission/Wastewater Department
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Minutes 03/04/25

The sewer commissioners meeting discussed several key points, including the approval of meeting minutes and the adjustment of water charges for a property at 35 River Street due to extenuating circumstances. The board also addressed the integration of accessory dwelling units into the sewer system, emphasizing the need for separate connections and potential engineering involvement. Dave Wilson was officially offered the position of pump station operator, and the town's septage revenue has significantly increased. The board also reviewed the allocation of betterment funds and the need for accurate record-keeping, with ongoing efforts to reconcile discrepancies in the books.

Action Items

- [] Reach out to Suzanne Richard to discuss the history of betterment records.
- [] Provide the list of betterment projects and charges from 2009 to Speaker 0.
- [] Continue reviewing betterment records and discrepancies, and create a cheat sheet to map the different charge codes.
- [] Discuss the results of the previous Executive Session with Jeannie.

Outline

Meeting Minutes and Initial Discussions

- Jeanne Dunn opens the meeting and calls for a vote on the minutes.
- Elaine Fiore and David Walsh discuss the accuracy of the minutes and the use of AI transcripts.
- Jeanne Dunn and Bill Watson discuss the adjustment of water charges for a property due to extenuating circumstances.
- Elaine Fiore clarifies the motion to adjust the water charge to match the water department's adjustment.

Final Sewer Commitment and Superintendent's Update

- Jeanne Dunn and Elaine Fiore discuss the final sewer commitment for a property at 35 River Street.
- Brian Donahoe provides an update from the superintendent, mentioning accessory dwelling units and their integration into the existing sewer system.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discuss the technical aspects of connecting accessory dwelling units to the main sewer system.
- Jeanne Dunn and David Walsh discuss the potential issues and regulations regarding the sale of accessory dwelling units.

Accessory Dwelling Units and Engineering Considerations

- Elaine Fiore shares examples of accessory dwelling units in other towns and the various configurations.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discuss the need for engineering drawings and the potential issues with gravity feed systems.

- Jeanne Dunn recalls a previous case involving a similar situation and the decision to require a separate sewer connection.
- Elaine Fiore emphasizes the importance of designing accessory dwelling units as standalone units to avoid future complications.

Promotion and Injury Update

- Brian Donahoe announces Dave Wilson's promotion to pump station operator and the posting of a new labor position.
- Brian Donahoe provides an update on an employee who is still recovering from an injury.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the high revenue from septage acceptance and the challenges faced by other towns with private wastewater treatment plants.
- Brian Donahoe notes their absence for the next few days and the need to prepare for the upcoming town meeting.

Betterment Money and Budget Allocation

- Elaine Fiore discusses the use of betterment money and the preference to avoid using free cash.
- Brian Donahoe provides an update on the town's budget and the allocation of certified free cash.
- Elaine Fiore mentions the need to keep all options on the table regarding additional betterments.
- Brian Donahoe and Elaine Fiore discuss the importance of accurate record-keeping and the challenges of tracking betterments.

Betterment Tracking and Historical Context

- Elaine Fiore shares a conversation with a former department head about the history of betterment practices.
- Brian Donahoe provides an update on the cleaning up of unexpended articles and the preparation for the town meeting.
- Jeanne Dunn and Elaine Fiore discuss the importance of accurate record-keeping and the challenges of tracking betterments.
- Bill Watson provides an update on the progress of reviewing books and addressing discrepancies.

Final Discussions and Meeting Adjournment

- Jeanne Dunn and Elaine Fiore discuss the importance of tracking betterments and the challenges faced.
- Bill Watson mentions the need to create a cheat sheet to map out the charge codes for betterments.
- Jeanne Dunn and Elaine Fiore discuss the importance of accurate record-keeping and the challenges of tracking betterments.
- Jeanne Dunn calls for a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the motion is seconded and approved.