



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

Elaine A. Fiore, Chair
Brian Donahoe, Vice Chair
William E. Watson

781 -585-4058
781 -831-6783 FAX

Minutes 04/01/25

The April 1 sewer commissioners meeting covered several key updates and discussions. Superintendent Dave reported on the cleaning of septage tanks, the return of an injured staff member, and ongoing labor interviews. The team discussed the leaching fields' loan start date, which is set for July 1, and the need to collect special assessments by August and November. They also reviewed the town's historical sewage issues and the benefits of the current system. The commissioners debated the formation of a Department of Public Works, concluding it was premature. They also addressed specific property issues, including a burst pipe incident and the need for reimbursement from CDM for past work.

Action Items

- [] Coordinate with CDM to review the punch list and address any outstanding items related to the leaching field project.
- [] Follow up with CDM on the status of the reimbursement for the leaching field project.
- [] Schedule a meeting with CDM to discuss the punch list and any remaining work on the leaching field project.

Outline

Sewer Commissioners Meeting Introduction and Initial Updates

- Elaine Fiore opens the April 1 sewer commissioners meeting and introduces the agenda.
- David Walsh provides a quick summary of recent activities, including the cleaning of septage tanks and the return of an injured staff member.
- David Walsh mentions interviewing laborers for a new position and ongoing preparations for the meeting.
- David Walsh discusses the sediment offloading process and the cleaning of aeration diffusers.

Discussion on Leaching Fields and Loan Timing

- David Walsh raises concerns about the timing of the loan for the leaching fields and its impact on the special assessment.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the definition of substantial completion and its implications for the loan start date.
- Elaine Fiore emphasizes the importance of collecting money within the fiscal year to avoid financial issues.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh agree on the need to finalize the punch list and consult with CDM for clarification.

Financial Planning and Special Assessment Strategy

- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the financial implications of the loan start date and the need to collect money within the fiscal year.
- Bill Watson inquires about the possibility of using surplus money to pay off the debt faster.

- Elaine Fiore explains the lack of prepayment benefits and the potential to reduce user fees in the future.
- David Walsh and Bill Watson discuss the potential for reducing special assessments and user fees based on surplus funds.

Historical Context and Environmental Benefits

- Elaine Fiore presents a historical perspective on the sewer system's benefits and the town's commitment to environmental stewardship.
- Elaine Fiore outlines the talking points for the presentation to the Selectmen, including the town's financial contributions and the need for continued support.
- Elaine Fiore explains the financial impact on taxpayers and sewer customers if the town does not support the leaching fields.
- Mark Guidiboni raises questions about the town buildings receiving sewer services and the focus on nitrogen remediation.

Exploring Revenue Opportunities and Future Planning

- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss potential revenue opportunities, including selling treated water to neighboring communities.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the possibility of using treated water for irrigation and other purposes.
- Bill Watson suggests the idea of separate pipelines for different water uses to reduce pressure on the water department.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discuss the potential for using treated water for various purposes, including irrigation and industrial use.

Concerns About DPW Formation and Sewer Commission Merger

- Brian Donahoe expresses concerns about the formation of a Department of Public Works (DPW) and its impact on the sewer commission.
- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the qualifications and responsibilities of the DPW director and the potential for merging the water and sewer commissions.
- Brian Donahoe suggests that the sewer commission should merge with the water commission to better manage the capital investment and operating budget.
- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe agree that the formation of the DPW should be postponed for further study and discussion.

Review of Specific Property Cases and Financial Adjustments

- Jeanne Dunn provides updates on specific property cases, including a burst pipe incident and the associated financial adjustments.
- Elaine Fiore and Jeanne Dunn discuss the average usage of a property and the adjustment of the sewer portion of the bill.
- Jeanne Dunn mentions the ongoing work with Greg and the progress on the spreadsheets and templates.
- Elaine Fiore and Jeanne Dunn agree on the adjustment of the sewer bill based on the property's average usage.

Historical Issues with Sewage and Environmental Impact

- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss historical issues with sewage and the environmental impact on the town.
- Brian Donahoe recounts the severe conditions in Kingston Shores and the efforts to address the sewage problems.
- Bill Watson and Mark Guidiboni share personal experiences with sewage issues and the impact on the community.
- Brian Donahoe emphasizes the importance of the sewer system in improving the town's environmental conditions.

Finalizing Meeting Details and Next Steps

- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the final details of the meeting, including the next steps for the leaching field article and the budget article.
- Elaine Fiore mentions the upcoming meeting for the Finance Committee to discuss the leaching field article.
- Jeanne Dunn provides an update on the reimbursement from CDM and the ongoing efforts to resolve the issue.
- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe agree on the need to finalize the punch list and consult with CDM for the necessary repairs.