



TOWN OF KINGSTON
Office of the Sewer Commission/Wastewater Department
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Sewer Commissioner Minutes 06/28/25

- The meeting discussed the sewer connection for 200 Main Street, highlighting challenges due to a Verizon telephone and the need for an easement. The proposed solution involves directional drilling under the sidewalk to avoid property disruption. The connection fee was set at \$44,000. The department also addressed staffing issues, noting a shortage of laborers and the need for potential outsourcing of landscaping. Financial updates included a surplus in the FY25 budget and an increase in septage revenue to \$581,600. The next meeting is scheduled for July 8 to finalize utility billing decisions.

Action Items

- [] Schedule the next meeting on July 8th.
- [] Explore the use of the highway department's tractor and attachments for mowing the leaching field.
- [] Investigate the cost of a new attachment for the Bobcat to handle the mowing of the leaching field.
- [] Reach out to John Matthias to discuss the sewer connection options for 200 Main Street.

Outline

Discussion on Sewer Connection for 200 Main Street

- Elaine Fiore introduces the agenda items, focusing on 198 and 200 Main Street.
- David Walsh explains the current sewer system layout and the challenges posed by a Verizon telephone bank.
- Owner 200 Main St. and Brian Donahoe discussed the need for an easement and the difficulties of digging up the driveway and parking lot.
- Brian Donahoe suggests a directional drilling method to avoid interference with the telephone bank and other structures.

Technical Details and Easement Issues

- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the depth and location of the telephone bank and the sewer laterals.
- Brian Donahoe proposes a shallow directional drilling pit to connect the sewer laterals.
- Owner 200 Main St. confirms that the property owner is okay with tying into the 198 Main Street connection point.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discussed the elevation and easement issues, suggesting that John Mathias can help with the process.

Alternative Connection Methods

- Brian Donahoe suggests using a shallow directional drilling method to avoid extensive digging.
- Owner 200 Main St. and Brian Donahoe discussed the possibility of going under the easement to avoid property disruption.
- David Walsh mentions that John Mathias has experience with similar connections and can provide creative solutions.

- Brian Donahoe emphasizes the importance of coordinating with Verizon to avoid interference during the connection process.

Financial and Regulatory Considerations

- Owner 200 Main St. and Elaine Fiore discussed implications of the sewer connection, including connection fees and betterment rates.
- Elaine Fiore suggests taking a vote to approve the connection and working with the superintendents to finalize the details.
- Owner 200 Main St. mentions the need for a Title Five inspection and the potential for a temporary connection.
- Elaine Fiore and Owner 200 Main St. discuss the timeline for closing on the property deal and the importance of having the sewer connection in place.

Leaching Field Mowing and Equipment Solutions

- David Walsh discusses the challenges of mowing the leaching field and the potential use of a highway department tractor.
- Brian Donahoe suggests using a tractor with a brush packer attachment for the leaching field mowing.
- David Walsh considers trading in the aging Bobcat for a newer model with a similar attachment.
- Brian Donahoe emphasizes the importance of having the right equipment to maintain the leaching field effectively.

Budget and Financial Updates

- David Walsh provides an update on the FY 25 budget, noting that the town meeting funds may not be needed due to better-than-expected performance.
- David Walsh discusses the anticipated FY 26 budget and the positive impact of increased septage revenue.
- David Walsh mentions the need for air conditioning repairs at the treatment plant and the replacement of a belt in one of the units.
- David Walsh highlights the ongoing staffing challenges and the importance of having a fully staffed crew.

Staffing and Workload Management

- David Walsh discusses the challenges of managing the workload with an understaffed crew and the need for additional laborers.
- Bill Watson suggests hiring more staff members to alleviate the workload and improve efficiency.
- David Walsh considers outsourcing landscaping and other tasks to free up staff for more critical maintenance activities.
- David Walsh emphasizes the importance of having a well-trained and dedicated crew to handle the department's responsibilities.

Utility Billing Timeline and Address Verification

- Jeanne Dunn outlines the timeline for entering utility billing decisions and starting the bill run by July 7.
- Jeanne Dunn mentions the need for address verification to ensure accurate billing for properties with multiple meters.
- Elaine Fiore discusses the importance of reconciling the spreadsheet of addresses and meters to avoid billing errors.
- Jeanne Dunn and Elaine Fiore emphasize the need for timely decisions to meet the September billing deadline.

Performance Evaluations and Water Commission Update

- Brian Donahoe suggests including performance evaluations in the staffing discussion to ensure continuous improvement.

- Brian Donahoe provides an update on the water commission meeting, noting progress on addressing water management issues.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the potential for increased water availability in emergencies and the positive impact on the system.
- Brian Donahoe highlights the importance of coordinating with the DEP and other stakeholders to address long-term water management challenges.

Next Meeting Schedule and Closing Remarks

- Elaine Fiore and Bill Watson discuss the schedule for the next meeting, tentatively set for July 8.
- Jeanne Dunn reminds the group about the town hall closure on Fridays and the potential for a permanent four-day work week.
- Elaine Fiore suggests reviewing the language of the documents and making any necessary adjustments before the next meeting.
- Elaine Fiore and Bill Watson agree to finalize the details and prepare for the next meeting on July 8.