



TOWN OF KINGSTON
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Sewer Commissioner Minutes 09/16/25

The Sewer Commissioners Meeting on September 16 discussed rescheduling the Cushman Farms discussion to September 30. CDM is preparing cost estimates for sewer system design, with a goal to present at the annual budget meeting. The plant is experiencing increased workload due to a rise in building permits, and staffing issues were highlighted. A new operator position and a part-time clerical assistant were proposed for the upcoming town meeting. Financial updates showed a \$220,000 increase in septage revenue in FY25. Potential sewer extensions on Smith Lane were also discussed, considering future development and traffic flow.

Action Items

- [] Reach out to the selectmen's office to discuss DPW coordination and potential MOUs.
- [] Submit an article for the next town meeting to add a full-time wastewater treatment plant operator position and a part-time administrative assistant position.
- [] Attend the meeting on Smith Lane to discuss potential sewer line extensions.
- [] Discuss the grade level (4 or 5) for the new wastewater treatment plant operator position with HR.

Outline

Sewer Commissioners Meeting Agenda and Rescheduling

- Elaine Fiore opens the meeting at 4:35 PM on Tuesday, September 16, and mentions the agenda amendment to discuss Cushman farms, which will be rescheduled to the next meeting on September 30.
- David Walsh confirms the next meeting date as September 30 and discusses the possibility of pushing out the October 7 meeting.
- Elaine Fiore confirms the new meeting date for September 30 at 4:30 PM and introduces new business regarding the sewer system completion.
- Brian Donahoe discusses the ongoing process with CDM for cost estimates and design plans for the sewer system, aiming to present it to the annual budget meeting.

Future Plans and Joint Meetings

- Brian Donahoe mentions the delay in the water commission meeting due to other business and the possibility of a joint meeting on the subject.
- Brian Donahoe has reached out to Cheryl Antoine, the liaison on the board of health, to discuss the plan and visit the sewage treatment plant.
- Brian Donahoe plans to expand the meeting to include at least two selectmen, Missy and Eric, to discuss the project.
- Brian Donahoe emphasizes the importance of the project as a public health, environmental, and water quality issue, affecting 50% of the town's drinking water.

Superintendent's Update and Staff Performance

- David Walsh provides an update after returning from vacation, noting the plant is running well, and the staff is performing well.
- David Walsh mentions an uptick in building permits, leading to increased workload and the need for more room at the plant.
- David Walsh discusses the upcoming interim town administrator, George Samia, and the recovery of a staff member who had a shoulder injury.
- David Walsh highlights a significant issue with a pump at Marion Drive, which is being rushed for rebuilding, and the increased flow from the mall development.

Infrastructure and Maintenance Challenges

- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the need for upgrading the pump at Marion Drive and the challenges with new equipment brought on during COVID.
- David Walsh mentions the collaboration with the highway department to reset manholes on Crescent Street and River Street.
- David Walsh provides a quote for lowering manholes on Country Club Way and discusses the need to address sinkholes on Highlands Lane and manholes on Bradford Street.
- David Walsh discusses the ongoing work on a hazard plan for the town, involving multiple departments to address storm events and potential funding for projects.

Financial and Staffing Updates

- Elaine Fiore and David Walsh discuss the financial performance of the plant, noting a surplus due to increased septage revenue.
- Elaine Fiore suggests adding an article for town meeting to hire an additional wastewater treatment plant operator and a part-time clerical assistant.
- Brian Donahoe supports the idea of hiring a part-time assistant to help Jean, the administrative assistant, and mentions the need for additional staff to handle the growing workload.
- Elaine Fiore and David Walsh discuss the process of hiring and the potential need for a grade four operator to start and then upgrade to a grade five operator.

Future Projects and Collaboration

- David Walsh mentions a potential project on Smith Lane involving a rotary and the need to consider sewer extensions.
- Brian Donahoe suggests discussing the project at the upcoming meeting and considering extending the sewer line while the construction is ongoing.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe discuss the geological features of the area, including the clay and glacial till, and the importance of understanding the water flow and well locations.
- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the need for formalizing procedures and coordinating with the highway department for emergency situations and storm events.

Meeting Conclusion and Next Steps

- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the importance of having a clear understanding of the plant's operations and the need for tours to educate stakeholders.
- David Walsh mentions the upcoming meeting on Smith Lane and the need to stay informed about future projects that may affect the sewer system.
- Elaine Fiore and Brian Donahoe discuss the importance of proactive maintenance and the need for additional staff to handle the growing workload.
- David Walsh and Brian Donahoe agree to adjourn the meeting and continue discussions in the next meeting on September 30.