



TOWN OF KINGSTON
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Sewer Commissioner Minutes 10/23/25

The civil commission meeting on October 23 discussed several key points. The annual town meeting article will not require a rate increase, ensuring funds are sufficient. The 22 Main Street issue was debated, with a preference for excavating rather than using a camera to inspect the pipe. The septage rate will increase to 7 cents in January 2026. Financial reviews indicated the need for additional staffing due to increased workload and maintenance issues. Staffing challenges were highlighted, including recent equipment failures and ongoing maintenance needs. The Cushman Farm update noted close alignment with anticipated flow capacity, aiding future planning.

Action Items

- [] Discuss the expansion estimate from CDM at the next meeting.
- [] Attend the meeting with CC Construction next Tuesday regarding the water system situation at the leaching field.

Outline

Annual Town Meeting Article and Financial Updates

- Brian Donahoe opens the meeting, noting the rescheduling due to a noticing problem and mentions Elaine's online availability.
- Elaine Fiore confirms no specific agenda items but suggests voting in any necessary orders.
- Brian Donahoe suggests starting with the annual town meeting article, noting the next meeting is next Tuesday.
- Elaine Fiore mentions working on numbers and confirms no rate increase will be needed for the requested articles.
- Brian Donahoe and Elaine Fiore discuss the financials, confirming they are in good shape with no rate increase needed.

Update on 22 Main Street Issue

- Brian Donahoe introduces the next topic, the 22 Main Street issue, and David Walsh provides an update on ongoing discussions with Colin.
- David Walsh mentions a proposed camera solution instead of digging up the pipe, which needs board approval.
- David Walsh expresses skepticism about the camera solution, suggesting the need to dig up and expose the pipe for a thorough investigation.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the importance of seeing the entire line and the potential need for further excavation.
- Elaine Fiore and David Walsh agree on the need for a thorough investigation and board involvement in the decision-making process.

Septage Rate Increase and Financial Discussions

- Brian Donahoe brings up the topic of increasing the septage rate, noting past discussions with the superintendent.
- Elaine Fiore suggests a motion to increase the septage rate to seven cents, starting in January 2026.

- The motion is made, seconded, and approved unanimously.
- David Walsh provides an update on financials, noting the need for additional staffing due to the town meeting article approval.
- Brian Donahoe mentions the need to discuss the expansion estimate from CDM in the next meeting.

Staffing and Maintenance Challenges

- David Walsh discusses ongoing staffing challenges, including an operator injured last winter and another with potential health issues.
- David Walsh highlights the need for additional staffing to handle current and future growth at the plant.
- Brian Donahoe asks about recent unexpected maintenance difficulties, and David Walsh provides examples, including pump and actuator issues.
- David Walsh mentions the need for continuous maintenance and the challenges of dealing with equipment failures.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the importance of having a spare tank and the ongoing daily activities at the plant.

Leaching Field and Water System Issues

- Brian Donahoe mentions ongoing dialog with CC Construction regarding the water system situation for the leaching field.
- Elaine Fiore offers to attend the meeting with CC Construction next Tuesday to ensure a commissioner's presence.
- David Walsh explains the need for water to hydroseed the leaching field and the challenges in getting access to the water.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the importance of resolving the water system issue to proceed with the leaching field work.
- David Walsh provides an update on the leaching field work, including the need to dig new trenches due to runoff issues.

Cushman Farm Update and Final Remarks

- Brian Donahoe and Speaker 5 discuss the Cushman Farm update, noting the receipt of new site plans.
- Brian Donahoe comments on the flow capacity and the importance of maintaining anticipated flow levels.
- David Walsh shares a final story about a generator issue caused by a mouse chewing through wires.
- David Walsh highlights the ongoing challenges of dealing with emergencies and the need for additional staffing.
- Brian Donahoe and David Walsh discuss the importance of mutual aid with other departments and the need for better coordination.