



4:36 PM – Call Meeting to Order

Chairman David Langlais called the meeting to order at 4:36 PM.

Present

Chairman David Langlais, Commissioner Emile Demers, Superintendent Joseph Cloutier, and Recording Secretary Cathrin Stec.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the meeting held June 23, 2025 were approved unanimously.

New Business

Flow Metering Project Updates

The previous Superintendent, Marguerite Lavoie, implemented a town-wide flow metering project. Various rain gauges and flow meters were installed to monitor infiltration. This multi-week project took place between May and June. EST Associates, Inc. performed the work, with Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. providing engineering oversight. Results and recommendations are expected by the end of August or early September. Superintendent Cloutier will update the Board at the next meeting.

Tyngsboro Sewer Meter Pit Upgrades

There are two Tyngsboro meter pits that monitor the flow coming from Tyngsboro through Dracut. These pits need upgrades, which fall under the Town of Dracut's responsibility.

Watermark has inspected the pits and is preparing pricing and a scope of service. Superintendent Cloutier will update the Board at the next meeting.

Wheeler Village Forced Main Redirect Project

Former Superintendent Jay Reynolds initiated a project to redirect the Wheeler Village pump station to reduce flow to Lowell. The pump station was purchased for \$1.00, and the necessary infrastructure and piping were installed to connect to a manhole in Methuen. Due to a transition in leadership, the project went dormant. Superintendent Cloutier has obtained plans from CDM Smith and is committed to seeing the project through to completion. Plans have been shared with Watermark, who are preparing pricing. An update will be provided at the next meeting.

Old Business with Updates

Vinal Street Sewer Sag

Superintendent Cloutier reported that the Vinal Street sewer repair has been completed. The property owner removed the pool and relocated a shed to facilitate the work. Upon inspection, no significant dents or sagging were found—only a slight drop. The line was in great shape.

As a result, the contractor charged half the quoted price. However, it was concluded that the 8-inch sewer line, designed for residential use, is burdened by commercial flows from the Tennis Plaza. Grease buildup contributed to the most recent backup. Superintendent Cloutier will coordinate with the Board of Health regarding grease trap maintenance. Additionally, a proactive jetting plan will be implemented twice a year, and the line will be added to the manhole inspection list. If issues persist, replacing the line with a 12-inch pipe will be considered. Note: No pool will be reinstalled over this area.

Drain Layer Bonding Process

The Superintendent recommends transitioning from a cash bond to a surety bond system. Currently, contractors pay a cash bond of \$300 per job, up to \$1,500 per year. The proposed change is a \$5,000 surety bond, submitted annually with the Drain Layer License Application. This adjustment reflects the rising costs of sewer work. Research indicates that surrounding communities use surety bonds rather than cash bonds. On Superintendent Cloutier's recommendation, Mr. Langlais made a motion to adopt the \$5,000 surety bond requirement. Mr. Demers seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

Bylaw Language Change

The proposed changes to Article VIII, Section 1 of the Sewer Bylaws must be presented at the November Town Meeting. Superintendent Cloutier will draft the revised language regarding the bonding change and present it to the Commission for final review at the September 9, 2025 meeting.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date was set for 9/9/2025 at 4:30 PM

5:11 PM – Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 PM