

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, January 7, 2016, 8:30 AM

Water & Sewer Department Office

1. Call to Order & Freedom of Information Requirements

The Freedom of Information Requirements having been met, the meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM. Those present were Committee Members, Bachman Smith, Mark Howard and Susan Middaugh (Chair); Staff Members Greg Gress. Jason Blanton and Andy Benke. Resident, John Jeffries also attended.

2. W&S Bill Appeals

John A. Jeffries 1615 Poe Avenue. This appeal was withdrawn.

David Franz 2202 Middle St. The water portion of a high Water & Sewer bill was appealed. Tree roots had led to a leak in a water line under the house. Detection was complicated by the heavy rains and pooling of water under the house. The portion of the W&S bill for sewer was reduced to reflect the fact that the excess water had not entered the sewer system and represented no cost to the Town. The appeal of the water portion was denied on a Motion by Mark Howard, seconded by Bachman Smith and passed by unanimous vote. Grounds for denial were that the ordinances do not allow for reduction of water fees since the Town still bears the full, up-front cost of providing water.

3. Noise reduction at WWTP : Mark Howard provided a landscape plan for planting of trees along the East fence line of the WWTP to replace trees removed when the fence was relocated. The plan met with approval and appreciation. The estimated cost was \$8,000. Andy Benke suggested addition of landscaping elements at either end of the fence line to delineate the road, to the South, and the path to the dock, on the North. He will meet with Mark Howard to plan this and move forward. The suggested funding source is the Tree Fund.

4 I&I Phase II Planning continued

Phase II Scope of Work and funding options were discussed.

An application for a flood-related FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant was ruled out because our project does not qualify. Our problem with I&I pre-existed the flooding and was not caused by it.

Consideration of negotiated lower CWS contractual water costs was not considered because this is not likely to impact costs in FY17.

An application for SRF funding for a Sewer Revenue Bond to start July 1, 2016, is considered to be the best option for funding Phase II. Mr. Gress presented a series of four cost options based on different Scope of Work components. Costs ranged from \$4,483,197 to \$3,450,217. Based on estimated bond payments, all four options were considered too costly to pursue at one time. Mr. Gress was asked to develop a scope of work at a cost of approximately \$2 M based on the highest priority components for Phase II and CIP follow-up work. This lower-cost option will be presented at the next Committee Meeting. Two options for payment of a \$2 M SRF bond were discussed: 1) using \$200,000 per year in water revenue that will become available in FY19 when a current GO Bond ends. This GO Bond can be prepaid and at least \$400,000 would be needed to do this. Jason Blanton was asked to look at the amounts and timing of payments for this option. A second option would be the sale of the old Town Hall, with these funds providing the buy-out cost of the GO Bond.

5. Communications / additional items from WWTF Manager, Greg Gress

Easements for four properties between Poe, Middle St. and Hennessee, are needed for new sewer lines. Planning will proceed with Town Staff, Town Attorney, Engineer/Survey input and meetings with homeowners. This item will be brought to the attention of Town Council.

6. Next W&S Committee meeting will be on January 14, 2016.

7. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 AM on a motion by Mark Howard, seconded by Susan Middaugh, and passed on a vote of 2:0. Due to length of the meeting, Bachman Smith left early to meet a prior commitment.

Pending Items (To be considered in future meetings)

- a. FEMA Grant update
- b. Rate Study update
- c. Development of a Cost Recovery Program
- d. Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant for submersible pumps
- e. Update of W&S Policy on Sewer Laterals
- f. Water Pumping Station Fencing & Site Improvements
- g. ASR: Aquifer Storage and Recovery