

WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, August 28, 2015, 8:30 AM

Water & Sewer Department Office

1. Call to Order

The Freedom of Information Requirements having been met, the meeting was called to order at 8:32 AM. Those present were Committee Members Mark Howard, Bachman Smith, Susan Middaugh (Chair) and Staff Members Greg Gress, Andy Benke, Jason Blanton.

2. Review of Wastewater Treatment Facility Design for FEMA Grant

Tracy Lewis, the Professional Engineer & HDR Project Manager who prepared the FEMA grant requesting funds to upgrade and flood-proof the WWTP, reviewed the preliminary design and the engineering decisions that were involved. Notable points: the upgraded WWTP is designed to withstand a 100 year flood event. The foundations for new components such as the oxidation ditches will require pilings, and these will be augered in rather than pounded to avoid damage to the current thin-walled structure that will remain in operation until the replacement goes on-line. Once funding and DHEC approval are in place, the approximate timeline will be as follows: 9 months for final Engineering Design, 2-3 months for the Bid and Award process, and 18 months for Construction. Notification about FEMA Grant approval is expected in 3-6 months. This means an estimated total of 3 years from the present until completion of the project. Given the age and status of the current WWTP, it is essential to keep this project on track and avoid unnecessary delays.

3. Planning for Phase II of I&I Remediation

Phase I was funded for 1.6 M to reduce I&I in Subsections 5 and 6 using a program of pipe line cleaning, inspection by TV, pressure testing for leaky connections and remediation by chemical packing (grouting) with follow-up using cured-in-place pipe relining or pipe replacement as needed. This approach is recommended when, as in our case, pipes are in generally good condition with I&I primarily due to leaking connections. This choice was validated in Phase I which found a high, 85% incidence of leaking pipe-to-pipe connections that were fixed by chemical grouting and a relatively low incidence of cracks and faults in the sewer pipes themselves that required pipe relining or replacement. The final report from Arcadis will not be completed until 6 months of rain events and pipeline flow data are accumulated. However, Greg Gress has documented (1) substantial reductions in inflow to the sewer plant during major rain events and (2) a preponderance of this rain-related inflow coming from the Subsections (1-4) that were not included in Phase I.

Phase II Scope of Work: The Committee began planning Phase II to complete the I&I remediation project for the remaining Subsections 1, 2, 3 & 4. This work will include replacement of sewer pipes in two locations: between Hennessey St. and Palmetto St. and between Citadel St. and Station 17. These areas have old, leaky sewer pipes that are located along tree-covered, interior lot lines. These are largely inaccessible and a major source of I&I. These pipelines will be abandoned and new pipelines will be placed along street ROWs.

Phase II Funding: Based on the cost for Phase I (1.6 M) plus the estimated cost of pipeline replacement in the two locations described above (0.4 M), discussion focused on methods for funding Phase II (2 M) without an increase in W&S rates. Two sources of revenue were identified that could be used to pay for a SRF loan for Phase II. One source is lowered payments to CWS. The Town's contract with CWS (for 750,000 gallons per day) far exceeds the Town's actual water use (below 400,000 gpd). Payments to CWS can potentially be lowered by reducing the amount of contracted water. A second source of revenue is from a current sewer revenue bond that will be paid off in the near future. Some bridge funds may be needed if Phase II payments begin before the end of this current revenue bond.

A loan from the State Revolving Fund (SRF) was used to fund Phase I and the Town was able to obtain a 1% loan by qualifying as a Green Project. This required an engineering report that the project will reduce power use by 20%. As an essential first step in planning for Phase II, the following motion was offered and approved.

MOTION: To authorize Greg Gress to contact an engineer to perform the cost saving study required to apply for a 1% SRF loan for Phase II. Motion by Bachman Smith, seconded by Mark Howard, passed unanimously.

4. Communications / other items from WWTP Manager, Greg Gress

The architect for new construction on a residential lot adjacent to the Station 13 Pumping Station has contacted the Town about the possibility of landscaping or otherwise improving the appearance of the brick pump house. This was briefly discussed with regard to two relevant issues. Any permissions given for landscaping or "improvement" to this pump house will set a precedent for all 5-6 of the current pump houses. In addition, replacement of current pumps with submersible pumps is planned within the next few years and design requirements are not yet known. The decision: Greg Gress will talk with the architect to clarify the request and see what can be worked out.

5. The next W&S Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 2, at 8:30 AM.

6. **The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 AM on a motion by Mark Howard, seconded by Bachman Smith and passed on a unanimous vote.**