

October 17, 2017

A Special Meeting was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. all requirements of the Freedom of Information Act having been satisfied.

Present were: Patrick M. O'Neil, Mayor
Chauncey Clark, Mayor Pro-Tem
Sarah Church, Councilmember
Mark Howard, Councilmember
Rita Langley, Councilmember
Tim Reese, Councilmember
Bachman Smith, IV, Councilmember

Mayor O'Neil called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and stated the press and public had been notified in accordance with State Law. There were 10 members of the public and one member of the media present. The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss the Waste Water Treatment Plant Seismic and Flood Hazard Retrofit Project.

Town Administrator Andy Benke presented the history of the plant. Construction of the Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) and Collection System began circa 1968 and was activated in 1969. The initial cost for the WWTP and Collection System was approximately \$934,727 in July 1968. The sewer system is composed of: 80,000 linear feet of mains, an additional 26,000 linear feet of service laterals, 7,400 linear feet of force mains, 327-man holes and 5 lift (pump) stations across the island to help move wastewater to the plant. The plant capacity averages 0.57 million gallons per day. In 2016, the daily average flow was 0.55 million and in 2017, the daily average flow is 0.6 million gallons per day.

In 2014, due to a bad ice storm on the East Coast, the President made a Declaration for disaster and FEMA was able to accept applications under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. At that time, the Town was able to identify three solutions for the plant. The first option was to do nothing. The second option was to design a plant at the 100-year flood event. The third option was to decommission the plant and establish a line to take the waste water to Mt. Pleasant for treatment. Option three had been discussed off and on for a number of years and in the grant process with the cost benefit analysis that was option that was looked at. The Town then engaged with HDR Engineering to begin work on the plan to design the 100-year flood event. In 2016, FEMA first reviewed the application. In June, 2016, the Town was then made aware by FEMA that there was a 500-year flood event requirement. HDR Engineering then re-designed the plan to fit the new 500-year requirements. As a result, a phased application where the conceptual

design for the 500-year flood event was submitted. In August 2017, FEMA 500-year flood plan was completed and presented to the Water and Sewer Committee and the Phase I deliverables were submitted to FEMA.

In 2017, the Town is now looking at four options for the plant. The first option is to do nothing. The second option is to design and upgrade the plant to the 100-year flood event. The Town would be obligated to pay for 100% of this option. The third option is to upgrade the plant for the 500-year flood event as required by FEMA. With this option, FEMA would pay for a portion of the initial grant application. And the fourth option is to decommission the plant and establish a line to take the waste water to Mt. Pleasant for treatment.

Water and Sewer Manager Greg Gress explained the difference between the 100- year flood plan, the 500-year flood plan and the Mt. Pleasant option. The 100-year plan elevation is 12.1' and the 500-year flood plan elevation is 19.2'. The 500-year plan would require an additional two new clarifiers and one additional new chlorine contact chamber. There is concern with the Mt. Pleasant option regarding the wetlands, waters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permitting, Clean Water Act Section 404, etc. The 100-year plan would take roughly 26 months and would cost approximately \$10,048,238. The 500-year plan would take roughly 52 months and would cost approximately \$13,908,227. The Mt. Pleasant option would take roughly 54 months and would cost approximately \$17,869,32. All three of those amounts are calculated using 2020 dollars. Comptroller Blanton stated there were a number of different ways the Town could fund the upgrades. A few mentioned were: GO bond, revenue bond and sale of Town lots. These will be discussed in further detail at a future Council meeting.

Motion was made by Councilmember Smith, seconded by Councilmember Langley, to Retain the Engineer of Record to Develop Engineering and Draft Plans to Upgrade the Waste Water Treatment Plant to the 100-year flood Event Threshold and to Direct Staff to Present Council with Financing Options for the Upgrades, carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Councilmember Reese, seconded by Councilmember Clark, to adjourn at 6:56 p.m., carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Courtney Liles