

**MINUTES PUBLIC HEARING
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADES
INFORMATIONAL MEETING
5:30 P.M. Tuesday, February 23, 2021
VIA ZOOM MEETING PLATFORM**

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Elizabeth Dow, Vice Chair
Lucian Avery
Shari Cornish
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane

Others Present

Shaun Fielder, Town Manager
Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Alberta Miller, Town Clerk
Wayne Elliot, Aldrich & Elliot
Mike Mainer, Aldrich & Elliot

Others Present

Pollyanna LeVangie
Orise Ainsworth
Paul Fixx
David Kreindler
Mary Gagnon

Public Hearing:

5:30 P.M. Select Board Chair, Eric Remick, called the Public Hearing to order.

5:31 P.M. – 5: 35 P.M. Eric Remick, Chair, to summarize the Bond vote.

Eric explained that in 2020 the Town discussed if it was feasible and necessary to expand the Wastewater Plant capacity. They contacted engineering firm Aldrich & Elliot to do a preliminary assessment, which ended in the Town being advised that upgrades to certain components needed to happen before considering capacity increases. This is how we have ended up at point to consider a Bond vote at this time, primarily because it is necessary, as much of the equipment is original from 40 years ago and because it is important to try to replace these items now before they fail.

Wayne mentioned that favorable funding options for the project at this time is another reason that now is a good time for this project.

5:35 P.M. – 5:45 P.M. Aldrich & Elliot, P.C. to present PowerPoint Presentation on the Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades project and need for Bond

Mike Mainer led the PowerPoint presentation outlining the details of the Bond vote, what components are part of the project, as well as the funding. The Town will need to bond for the full \$2.2 Million project, but with subsidies, the final loan is expected to be about \$1.3 Million. The typical residential rate payer on the system can expect to pay about \$15 more per quarter to support the repayment. This is a key time to take advantage of this funding opportunity as it may not be available again in the future. *See attachments for the full presentation.*

5:45 P.M. – 5:55 P.M. Questions/comments from the audience

Pollyanna LeVangie asked if there was any benefit to paying before the first payment is due in 2023. Wayne indicated that there was no real benefit to this as it is set up for a fixed payment for 30 years. The timeline shows about a year for construction and then allows us another year before the first payment is due. That first year after the project gives the Town extra time to set aside additional money for the first payment and subsequent payments.

Paul Fixx asked if the project would create any other savings by doing these repairs and upgrades. Eric explained that it might create some minimal energy savings, but it is more about repairing what needs to be repaired before it completely fails. Paul also asked if the Town had planned to stay on top of things to prevent future issues. The Town has been good about setting aside capital funds to make repairs along the way, including a recent sludge disposal. This project represents equipment that has reached the end of its useful life. The Town has been making efforts over the years to monitor the facility and make repairs as they can and it is their intention to continue this practice, as well as setting aside funds going forward.

Pollyanna asked if the expansion would allow the plant to serve more people. Eric went back to his original comments that the Town discussed this and that is why they reached out to Aldrich & Elliot initially. That is how the project started, but ultimately the Town learned that before considering expansion or capacity, these items really had to be fixed as many of them are original from 40 years ago. This is the first step to pursuing that idea.

5:56 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the Public Hearing.

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager