

TOWN OF WESTBROOK
866 BOSTON POST ROAD
WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

Regular Meeting
Teleconference via Zoom
Wednesday May 27, 2020
Minutes

1. Call to Order

The Regular Meeting of the Westbrook Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) was called to order by Chairman McNamar on Wednesday May 27, 2020 at 7:01 PM by teleconference.

Members Present: Lee McNamar (Chairman), Scott Brainard, Sid Holbrook, and Ray Fontana.

Members Absent: Thomas Maynard.

Also Present: Zachary Faiella, R.S., M.P.H., D.O.H., Lee Archer R.S., Brian Curtis of Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, Inc., and Shirley Mickens

2. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

3. Wastewater Evaluation Project Update

Mr. Curtis from Nathan L. Jacobson & Associates, Inc. explained that the groundwater monitoring at Ted Lane field is winding down. The water table is dropping off. The groundwater depth on the site is at approximately 8-10 feet below grade and the flow direction is to the west. Soil samples were sent to the lab for testing. Wells have been developed and in well slug test will be run Monday or Tuesday to test the soil permeability. Once that is complete the hydraulic capacity of the site can be determined. Then system layouts can be done and it will be possible to determine how many gallons per day the site can handle. Mr. Curtis expects to have a draft report by the end of June.

Mr. McNamar would like to set up a meeting at the end of June with Marilyn Ozols and Jim Crawford to see what they are looking for. Mr. Curtis will set up different scenarios of system layouts. He explained if the wastewater capacity on the site exceeds 7500 gallons per day then a treatment plant will be needed because it will fall under the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) jurisdiction. The next step would be to look at the cost and the number of users and if that will make financial sense. Mr. Holbrook asked about permeability vs percolation test. Mr. Curtis explained the soils were sand and gravel and of a medium range for permeability. Mr. Curtis discussed groundwater mounding and permeability of the soil as it relates to travel time to the property line. Once over the 7500 gallons per day threshold, the nitrogen criteria kicks in and that means the site usually requires treatment, which can be expensive. The site is approximately 6 acres including the buildings. Mr. Holbrook asked if the town needs to look at nitrogen treatment anyway due to the consent order? DEEP is concerned with the high density areas needing treatment for nitrogen. Mr. Faeilla mentioned the public health code doesn't require you to treat for nitrogen, so if it is under 7500 gallons per day treatment wouldn't be required. Mr. Holbrook is concerned about the DEEP consent order.

Mr. Holbrook asked about how much has been spent on the project. Mr. McNamar thinks the bill so far for the wastewater evaluation project is \$26,000. Most of that was for the boring contractor. Mr. Curtis will send a breakdown of the costs.

4. Pilot Study Update

Mr. McNamar explained that the Board of Selectmen approved \$40,000 for the Pilot Study and \$5,000 for Mr. Curtis's oversight. The lawyer put together a contract for the installation of the PNR system and that was signed by the contractor and the First Selectman. Mr. Curtis, Mr. McNamar, Mr. Riggio and Mr. Camarota met out at the Riggio Building the other day and went over the project. The installer has a good understanding of how things will go. Mr. Archer sent Mr. Camarota the application to construct. Mr. McNamar mentioned that the Riggio Building will be empty until mid-June, so there shouldn't be any disruption to town employees work. There may be an issue with the electrical service box in the basement, if there are fuses, they would need to be replaced with circuit breakers. The installer is starting to send in submittals for the select fill, tanks, pumps, and control panel. When he has a source for wood chips Mr. Curtis will look at them to be sure it is a proper material. The installer is expected to begin on June 8. Mr. Archer mentioned that the Health Department hasn't seen an application yet. They need a permit to construct. The health department gives the approvals and is the authority on the system. There was concern whether enough money was put aside for the install. We should have asked for an extra 10% for contingency items such as the circuit breakers. Mr. McNamar was asked to come up with an amount quickly by the First Selectman. Mr. Curtis will bill for the bidding process, submittals and inspections and \$5,000 should be enough. Mr. McNamar thinks there will be enough money set aside to cover the project. The installer will not start until all the submittals are in and Mr. Curtis will forward them over to Mr. Faiella and Mr. McNamar. It will most likely be after June 8, 2020.

5. Vote on Minutes Regular Meeting 2/26/2020 & 1/22/2020

Ms. Mickens said the agenda item for the minutes is incorrect and the WPCA needs to vote on the minutes from the two Special Meetings: May 6th and April 30.

Mr. Brainard moved to approve the minutes from the Special Meeting on April 30th and the Special Meeting on May 6th. Mr. Fontana seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

6. Budget Update

Mr. McNamar met with Ms. Castracane the Director of Finance to confirm the capital budget allocations. There is \$130,000 for this year and \$50,000 for next year in the Capital Budget.

7. Public Hearing for Wastewater Management Regulations

Mr. McNamar explained that the public hearing will need to be postponed until further notice.

8. Invoices

Mr. Archer will check the WPCA mailbox since Ms. Mickens has not been able to get into the town hall.

9. New Business / Old Business

Ms. Mickens will send in a letter to the BOS to request to fill a vacancy on the WPCA.

Mr. McNamar said he gave an update to the Board of Finance on the wastewater evaluation project and the pilot study.

Mr. Holbrook asked if a pump is required for the Passive Nitrogen Reduction System (PNR). Mr. Curtis explained that pressure distribution is a requirement in the Health Code for the PNR system. Mr. Curtis explained the pump chamber will probably be less expensive for residential use and that the Riggio Building and the Concession Stand is treated as a commercial property. Mr. Archer mentioned the flow is low and is 2 pumps warranted. Mr. Curtis said only because it is commercial. The pumps are the smallest he could find. Mr. Curtis thinks for residential use the cost would be much less. He thought the cost may be as low as \$30,000. This is the first time a permitted PNR system will be installed and the installer probably boosted the cost to cover unexpected items. Mr. Archer mentioned the price cannot be the norm or homeowners will not be able to afford the systems. Mr. McNamar will get a breakdown of the costs. It was suggested that maybe the testing could be done at the state lab to lower the cost. Mr. Faiella spoke with Mr. Pawlik and Mr. Scully from the Department of Public Health about the lab testing and they will get back to him.

Mr. Holbrook asked when we will know if the system is working and denitrifying. Mr. Curtis thinks testing should be done once a month or every other month for approximately 9 months and then we should have some answers. There will be a start-up period. The only criticism heard is about seasonal vs year-round use since there is a start-up period for the bugs to start multiplying.

Mr. Archer asked if the commission has seen the contract? The commission should have had the opportunity to vote on the contract before it was signed by the First Selectman. Mr. Holbrook thought the commission decided that awarding the contract was contingent upon getting the plan approved by the Health Department. Mr. McNamar explained he was trying to move things along. Mr. Faiella spoke with Mr. Pawlik and Mr. Scully and they have no problems with the plan. Mr. Faiella will approve the plan tomorrow and send it to Mr. McNamar. Mr. McNamar will send out the contract to the members after the meeting and if they want to have another special meeting to approve the contract that is fine with him. Everyone was on board if the plans get signed tomorrow.

Adjournment

Mr. Holbrook made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brainard seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

ATTEST:

“In accordance with American with Disabilities Act, Final Rule 194 for State and Local Government Facilities, special accommodations will be provided upon notification to agency within a reasonable time of such need.”