

TOWN OF DRESDEN SEWER COMMITTEES September 2024 MEETING MINUTES

7:00 pm start, 8:57pm end.

Attendees: Charles Tall (Town Supervisor), Bill Borden (Sewer Superintendent), Allen Wilbur (Board), Marc Brown (Board), Suzy Shad (committee), Patrick Keenan (committee, by phone), Matt Fuller (town attorney)

Gallery: Margaret Stoutenberg, Mary Fox LaBrie, Patricia Portela, Patrick Gorman, Christine Diekel (board), Marilyn Borden (board)

Meeting note: The call-in number is (605) 313-5692 and 7857820 is the access code.

Sewer District #1 Engineering Study

1. The “Engineering Study” refers to the camera scoping and inspection of the sewer infrastructure of sewer district one by LaBella Engineering, which was funded by an Engineering Planning Grant from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corp.
2. Bills – LaBella sent their final invoice.



Sewer Study 2230223
invoice 222671.pdf

3. Update from EFC – Communication via email with EFC on 9/25/24, “Comment should be issued on this report in three or four weeks. If you do not have comments by then, please reach out.”
4. Process is that the report was drafted by the engineering firm that conducted the study, then sent off to the state for review. State then will return the report to us with their comments/questions, and the engineering firm will respond, then once all comments/questions are satisfied the report is finalized. Town attorney advised that it would not be unusual for comments to go two or three rounds back and forth.

Sewer District #1 Sewer Line Burial Project

1. Test pits
 - a. Test pits are needed for BOTH directional drilling and for an open cut style of pipe burial to assess the type of substrate that the buried pipe will be going through. Directional drilling would make less of an impact environmentally on the stream bed but is dependent on the test drilling *not* hitting bedrock or cobbles of a size that would hinder the use of a directional drilling machine. Open excavation would make a significant environmental impact, but plans have been drawn up that include as much mitigation to that impact as possible.
 - b. Tom Bates at LaBella is finding out about test pit methodology – auger drilling vs excavation - he’s talking with contractors, later this week or early next week will have estimated costs on those two routes
 - c. The process is that once work authorizations are granted, the test pit contractor will coordinate with the Superintendent and the engineer and come up to Huletts, work itself will be one or two days in duration, a representative from LaBella will be up here while it’s being done, all work is supervised by Superintendent Bill Borden --

cost of event is contractor + labella ppl being there. No work can be scheduled or started without work authorization agreements.

2. Permitting –
 - a. Permits are needed for both directional drilling and for open excavation. Permitting less burdensome for directional drilling because of a lesser environmental burden.
 - i. *Suzy to follow up and ask for status of permits
3. Easements – **Work authorizations** – in progress. Easements are back from some but not all the affected property owners.
 - a. *Suzy, Bill, and Matt to continue to work on easements
4. Funding – no loans have been taken out yet.
 - a. Whether or not we immediately need to take out a loan depends on how the bids come in for directional drilling. The bids could be about the same, could be a little bit more, a little bit less. There is value in less environmental impact. Open excavation is susceptible to flash flood, having to dewater the trench, etc. Directional drilling involves a Bentonite slurry to remove material – the action of the drilling can be impeded and (*worst case scenario*) it can have a blowout – a plan to mitigate such a problem is required, and it starts with drilling well below the creek bed (six feet below) and is augmented by having a pump out truck on site during the drilling.
 - b. The Town Supervisor is open to exploring alternative means of funding the project, such as taking it out to community bond instead of to a bank. The project was quoted last June at \$229k.
 - c. Invoices have been sent from LaBella.



August 2024 2242150
invoice 237199.pdf

Sewer Districts General

1. Adding sewer impact to building permitting process – draft
 - a. Tonight we reviewed the draft of “SEWER LATERAL PERMIT AND DETERMINATION APPLICATION” – this would be completed by property owners who are in sewer district #1 and sewer district #2. The committee went over each page of the application (Allen Wilbur, Marc Brown, Charles Tall, Suzy Shad, Patrick Keenan, Bill Borden). In the public gallery was also Marilyn Borden and Chrissy Diekel – discussion was had about the application itself and process of administering the application. The information on the application provides Superintendent Borden with the basic information needed to assess if a project will be impacting a sewer system. This is data that the Superintendent needs now to pivot from a position of *reacting* to building projects affecting the sewer system to a position of being able to *anticipate* projects and *guide* contractors/property owners to prevent damage to the system. The application is needed not just to protect infrastructure, but also to monitor/regulate how much expansion can be tolerated in each wastewater district as time goes on. Once finalized the application will be put up for discussion/adoption at a Town Board meeting.
 - i. *Matt Fuller to update the draft with the changes discussed tonight

- ii. *There will be a *paper* mailing communication from the Town once this is adopted to all district members (SD#1 and SD#2) explaining the purpose of the new application, how to get it, etc.
- 2. Sewer update – any maintenance or issues, items to be aware of
 - a. SD#2 - The Superintendent is aware of the structure behind Benvenuto. Structures greater than 144 sq ft need a permit from Washington County, but do not (at the moment) require a permit from the Town of Dresden.
 - i. *Patrick K will follow up with property owners on whether or not it's connected to sewer.
 - b. SD #1 - The garage on Elm Tree Path is still in discussion, it is understood construction will not continue until a resolution of some sort is found. That proceeding is between the Superintendent and the property owners.
 - c. SD #1 - New pump has arrived for district #1 (Cedar View station). It should be installed tomorrow or Thursday. It's been running on a single pump for about a month and half. An improved impeller is operating in that station and has been working well.
 - d. SD #2 – Only issue has been with pump damage as the result of power surges. When the power is out, it is *strongly* suggested that the property owner flip off the breaker for the pump, and only flip it back on once the power is properly restored (not browning out).
- 3. Account balances, expenses
 - a. We'll get granular data on this for the October meeting – this month is the first meeting with the new Town Supervisor.
 - i. *Town Supervisor will have bank balances at next Town Board meeting (as is current procedure)
- 4. Succession Plan – apprenticeship? Licenses needed, training needed, etc, timeline?
 - a. This topic was discussed with Bill Borden – comment was made that the town needs to have an understanding of current market salary for this position, and for current market hourly wage for this position. The committee would like to find individuals to take this opportunity who have the skill set or are willing to learn the skill set.
 - i. *Committee to explore/research this
 - b. Related topic, it was discussed that the Town should have its sewer system infrastructure professionally mapped to facilitate the position of Sewer Superintendent – for example, when the Superintendent receives a Determination Application, we would be able to overlay the parcel or highlight the parcel on the sewer map and be able to see quickly if the project would impact a force main or simply involve a sewer lateral, or do neither. A professional map would also include the boundaries of the expansion area of the sewer system.
 - i. *Matt Fuller will contact Van Dusen to get an estimation of how much it would cost to map SD#1 and SD#2.