

TOWN OF DRESDEN SEWER COMMITTEES October 2024 MEETING MINUTES

Attendees: Charles Tall, Allen Wilbur, Marc Brown, Bill Borden, Suzy Shad, Patrick Keenan (by phone), town attorney Matt Fuller, Christine Diekel, Mary and Tom LaBrie, Bill Davidow, George Kapusinski (by phone)

10/28/24 7:00pm – 8:20pm

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

Sewer District #1 Engineering Study (Environmental Facilities Corp, Engineering Planning Grant)

1. The draft, unfinalized system study report is still in the hands of the state (EFC). EFC reviews the PER (preliminary engineering report), and then they issue questions/comments that the engineering firm must respond to before the report is finalized.
 - a. Action item: Charles Tall to discuss releasing the unfinalized draft of the PER at the next Town Board meeting
2. Daniel from EFC updated on 9/25 “Comment should be issued on this report in three or four weeks. If you do not have comments by then, please reach out.”
Action item: Patrick Keenan to reach out to EFC for update.

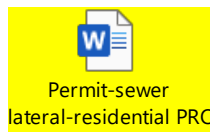
Sewer District #1 Sewer Line Burial Project

1. Test pits – auger or excavator?
 - a. We have received a quote for augering the test pits. From LaBella (emphasis added): “...here is a proposal for your review from Atlantic Testing to complete four test holes using an ATV mounted auger. They are available to get it done this year. I also contacted CME and they are booked out into next year. They did not provide a quote, but if we want to wait, I’ll get a quote from them as well. For the ATL quote, nearly half of the cost is for mobilization, so if we can only do three auger holes, then the savings would be around \$1000. They are anticipating this would be done in one day. We would want our inspector on-site during the test holes and assuming a 10-hour day including travel time; our cost would be around \$1200. This would put **the cost to drill and inspect the test holes at about \$9,495 + \$1,200 = \$10,695**. This may change depending on where they hit bedrock, or the number of holes that are completed, but it gives you a budget cost for this work. The auger holes would create much less disturbance than digging test pits and minimizes the risk of damage to existing sewer lines, facilities, and property from having to over excavate the trench size to safely get down to the depth needed. These test holes would provide good information for the feasibility and budgetary cost of directional boring for the new pipes. If you would like to proceed with ATL, we can provide an amendment to our contract for this scope of work.”
 - b. Action Item: Patrick Keenan to contact LaBella to find out whether or not LaBella would be comfortable using a local excavator as a subcontractor instead of the augering route – and get estimated cost.
2. Is augering of test pits within the already-drafted budget for the project?

- a. LaBella: It is, when counted under the “contingency” category of expenses, which was in at ~\$26k.
3. Project methodology: directional drilling vs open cut: if test pits indicate directional drilling could be attempted, there would be a cost savings.
 - a. From LaBella: “If directional drilling is feasible, then a number of the items such as rock vanes, cofferdams, and erosion control may be eliminated or significantly reduced. Those (relatively significant) costs could be reallocated towards the directional drilling if needed. Once we know the subsurface conditions, we can contact a directional drilling contractor to get a budget cost and the estimate can be updated to determine the preferred solution.”
4. Permitting: awaiting results of test pits (burial method to be used determines what permits are needed)
5. Temporary Work Authorizations (NOT easements, the agenda was mis-written)
 - a. All have been signed except Benvenuto/Burns
 - b. Action item: Suzy Shad to follow up with Benvenuto/Burns
6. Funding
 - a. No loan has been taken out yet.
7. Other –
 - a. Supervisor Charles Tall brought up the possibility of *not* burying the pipes and instead raising them up, fortifying them, and running heat trace tape along them was discussed. Previously, in February 2024, it was estimated that heat trace tape alone (not the electrical work, or removing the insulation to place it, or labor, etc) would be \$1100 per line. Superintendent Bill Borden found this route to be risky. This is currently not being pursued. The discussion yielded a good idea that likely will be used this winter – to run the pumps on the force main lines of the creek crossings when there is good weather during the winter to cut down on the amount of tank pump outs that are needed. Bill estimates about 4 hours of work per line to complete this each time it is utilized.

General

1. Adding sewer impact to building permitting process
 - a. The sewer committee has finalized the Sewer Lateral Permit and Determination Application. Next step is for the Town Board to approve it and put it in to use.
 - b. Action item: Sewer Lateral Permit and Determination Application to be brought up for vote at next Town Board meeting



2. Sewer update – any maintenance or issues, items to be aware of
 - a. Nothing to report from Superintendent Bill Borden
 - b. No Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMRs) are required to be filed after October, until May. Bill will be providing October’s DMR to town clerk Marci to be filed online soon.
3. Account balances, expenses
 - a. Supervisor Charles Tall reports each account (Sewer District #1 and Sewer District #2) have about \$70k in each account
 - b. Supervisor Tall stated he would like to normalize the sewer tax rate so it’s stable year over year
 - c. SD #1 historical rates:

2022	\$500	2013	\$200	2004	\$145
2021	\$400	2012	\$200	2003	\$200
2020	\$300	2011	?	2002	\$100
2019	\$300	2010	?	2001	?
2018	\$300	2009	\$400	2000	\$100
2017	\$600*	2008	\$150	1999	?
2016	\$400	2007	\$200	1998	?
2015	\$300	2006	\$150	1997	\$150
2014	\$200	2005	?		



G Gang Memo to
District 1 user re 2017

2017 Note:

2003 Note: enclosed with bill reads "The increase in this year's user fee is needed to accomplish additional work required to address concerns brought to NY State DEC by certain members of the community about a perceived need for potential replacement area for the current leach fields."

Action Item: November sewer meeting will be a financial deep-dive into expenses

4. Succession Plan
 - a. Action item: Suzy + Bill Borden, need to capture responsibilities/duties in written form, develop job description
5. Any other items
 - a. The shed on the Benvenuto/Burns parcel is within the bounds of sewer district #2 and it is understood to be not connected to the sewer nor to be resting on sewer force mains.
 - b. At some point, the law for sewer district #1 needs to be updated, and a law for sewer district #2 needs to be put in place. One law can cover both districts – the districts do not need to be combined in order for that to happen. The districts would

continue to operate independently. Drafting the law in such a way saves money for each district and streamlines process.

Parking Lot – future conversations

Upgrades to sewer alert system – passive (audio/visual) to active (system initiates a contact list) alert system (“SCADA lite”)

Succession plan for superintendent (detail duties, figure out compensation, scaffolding with apprenticeship?)

Modernizing law (simplify across both districts; enforcement and o&m employment positions *may* be same individual)

Study to assess capacity of field (how much field capacity is unused vs how much are we at, study to assess SOIL composition to understand how much capacity is left in the CURRENT field)

Map of system infrastructure (how much of field system is still in reserve, providing a map for a new sewer operator)

Discussion of creating a standalone enforcement position in the new law – compensation could be per diem or salary, a job description would need to be defined, etc