

## **TOWN OF DRESDEN SEWER COMMITTEES November 25 2024 MEETING Minutes**

Attendees: Charles Tall, Bil Borden, Allen Wilbur, Marc Brown, Suzy Shad, Matt Fuller, Mary LaBrie, Christine Diekel, Marilyn Borden + George Kapusinski, Chris Navitsky, and Patrick Keenan by phone

*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)**

No change in status, the study is still in the hands of the state for review. Matt Fuller commented that this is not atypical, it can take a long time for the state to go through the first round of commenting (2 years even)

**\*\*Patrick Keenan to reach out to Daniel Alt for an update**

**\*\*Suzy Shad to send the draft Preliminary Engineering Report to Charles Tall (“draft” “unfinalized” will be notated on the copy)**

### **Sewer District #1 Sewer Line Burial Project**

1. Test pits – auger or excavator?
  - a. Discussion was had on the two approaches for digging the test pits.
    - i. Allen Wilbur: Tom Bates said excavation gives a broader window of understanding
    - ii. Patrick Keenan: The augering estimate included a soil analysis
    - iii. Marc Brown, Allen Wilbur, Patrick Keenan supported the excavator approach
    - iv. Charles Tall expressed concern about the cost of the project to the community, Suzy Shad reiterated the public hearing process has been followed
    - v. A TSA change order from LaBella will need to be completed
    - vi. **\*\*Matt Fuller & Patrick Keenan will reach out to LaBella about excavation & a change order; COPY ALL BOARD MEMBERS ON CHANGE ORDER EMAILS**
    - vii. **\*\*\*Suzy to reach out to property owners about timeline when it’s solidified**
2. Funding
  - a. Charles Tall (CT) reports 52-55k is in reserve fund, CT is looking at alternative funding, George Kapusinski suggested going to Dan Stec’s office for financial support
  - b. Charles Tall reached out to Chris Navitsky (CN) – at this point in the meeting CN was phoned in to the meeting
  - c. Chris Navitsky(CN), from the non-profit Lake George Association:
    - i. This is the time of year CN checks in with local municipalities to see what kind of projects are under consideration/underway/in need of funding. CN would pitch a \$20-25k grant to the LGA board; the LGA finalizes their budget in January. LGA paid for the original plans for the force main burial project before Chazen merged with LaBella engineering. CN suggests the town look in to the Lake Champlain Basin Program (Colleen Hickey) as a potential source of funding.
    - ii. **\*\*\*Charles Tall will reach out to Dan Stec’s office**
    - iii. **\*\*\*Patrick Keenan will reach out the Lake Champlain Basin Program (he has pursued funding from LCBP in previous years)**

iv. \*\*\*Charles Tall to follow up with Chris Navitsky in January at the Board meeting

3.

### General

1. Adding sewer impact to building permitting process
  - a. The sewer committee has finalized the Sewer Lateral Permit and Determination Application.
  - b. \*\*\*Next step is for the Town Board to approve it and put it in to use through their process
2. Sewer update – any maintenance or issues, items to be aware of
  - a. Nothing to report from Superintendent Bill Borden
  - b. Anticipating 12/15 for sewer aerial pumps to be shut off and lines blown out for the season, this is a weather-dependent decision (will be earlier if freezing weather happens earlier, will be later if it stays warm)
3. Any other items
  - a. Suzy Shad shared that there are residents of Ticonderoga who are paying \$250 a quarter for sewer service, and in Pickerell bay there are folks with holding tanks (without washing machines) who pay \$1200-\$1500 a season (May-Oct) for service
  - b. Bill Borden has served the sewer districts for 28 years.
  - c. \*\*\*Continuing follow-up item, Action item: Suzy + Bill Borden, need to capture responsibilities/duties in written form, develop job description
  - d. \*\*\*A future meeting needs to be selected for a financial deep-dive (November was not ideal for this)
  - e. \*\*\*Sewer update to be sent via email to district members; HLPOCA will be distribution point for SD #1 along with bulletin boards, Mary LaBrie will aggregate SD#2 email addresses for distribution along with bulletin boards
  - f. \*\*\*Charles Tall to assess when the best time is to send out sewer bills, recently they've been sent out July 1 to be paid on/before August 1

### 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