Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee

Wolcott Town Office and Zoom

February 6, 2024

5:00PM

In Person: Jim Ryan, Linda Martin, Allen Carpenter, Bruce Wheeler, Forest Anderson, Peter Lazorchak, Tori Hellwig

On Zoom: Tricia Follert, Emily Hackett, Achouak Arfaoui, Liz Royer, Seth Jensen

1. **Welcome & Introductions; Public Comment (5:07)**
   Reviewed January's meeting summary. Linda Martin motions to approve, Bruce Wheeler second. Motion passes.

2. **Introduce Liz Royar (ED) and Forest Anderson from VT Rural Water Association**

   VT Rural Water Association has EPA grant to support communities exploring centralized wastewater. This committee is doing good work, would like to learn from the community & how to best help other communities succeed. Can help with some tasks – what kind of support does the committee need? Forest is utility management certified and familiar with managerial aspects of running a utility. Can help with zoning and permitting, outreach, funding assistance, etc. They will continue to attend meetings.

3. **Wolcott Village Wastewater Ordinance Development and sharing of new service area map with 100-and-500 year floodplain layers. (handout)**

   The map shared with the committee includes the 100- and 500-year mapped FEMA floodplains to show how they related to the proposed service area. The River Corridor boundaries were also examined. It was noted by DEC that floodways are missing, distinct from the floodplain, and could be included. Other criteria were also discussed, including demonstrating that the property system was permitted after September 2007, when new DEC water and wastewater rules went into effect.

4. **Village resident user fees- affordability, fee parameters for municipal, commercial, and residential buildings, grand list offsets, and home assessments**
   Potential fee structures were discussed. An "ERU-based" ("equivalent residential unit") structure can help equalize non-residential properties with residential properties (compare apples and oranges). For example, municipal buildings would have different rate based on their ERU. Fee structures could be based on property values. Fees could be pro-rated for some properties based on assessed values, to avoid people having to disclose sensitive information. There was further discussion about who will be responsible for paying for components of operations and maintenance of the system. The Town, Stone, and LCPC will follow up about property flows (based on the PER) and the Grand List.

5. **Outreach Sub-Committee Update and updated project timeline**
   For Town Meeting Day tabling, will need to coordinate with the principal and Belinda. Tabling will be to connect with residents to talk about the benefits of the system, and encourage them to come vote June 11. The 3/12 public outreach Roundtable event format and agenda were also discussed. There will be a presentation about the value of the system and then discussion with the community. A second public outreach meeting will be good before June 11.

   The statutory requirements for preparing for a bond vote require a warning as soon as May 2. The Wastewater Committee will start to meet the first and third Tuesday of each month, up until the special vote, to help get prepared for this. The 1st meeting of the month will include all stakeholders. The Committee can compile questions for stakeholders that arise during the second monthly meeting.

6. **Engineering Update – Peter**
   VTrans reached out to coordinate the School Street bridge replacement project. Flood protection strategies for the force main were discussed. Folks asked whether VTrans could wait until the June 11 outcome? Stone will follow up with clarifying questions.

   Stone has been in contact with Aranco, a wastewater supplier, to look into sizing of the pump and force main lines. Getting a cost estimate for this equipment to fine tune project cost with new information, but not expecting big changes.

7. **Grant funding and select board update and funding ask- (handout)**
   The current funding secured for the program was discussed. A new grant opportunity is available to help close the remaining gap (Northern Borders Catalyst Grant). The Selectboard will get an update from the Committee and discuss this grant at their meeting on February 7.

8. **Adjourn (7:09)**