Wolcott Village Wastewater Committee Meeting

Wolcott Town Office School St. and Zoom

December 17, 2024

In Person: Linda Martin, Jim Ryan, Allen Carpenter, Tori Hellwig
On Zoom: Bradley Horstman, Peter Lazorchak, Emily Hackett, J.B. Hinds, Forest Anderson

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1. **Approve November 18 Meeting Minutes**
   Linda motioned to accept, Allen seconded. Approved.

2. **Funding update**
   Stone will help complete the PPL application, to keep the project on the DEC list for projects underway. Environmental Review coordination is ongoing. Linda and Tori will work on the ARPA quarterly report.

3. **Update from Stone**
   Stone is coordinating with VTrans to finalize bid package for the bridge project. Bridge construction will start 2025, but bridge won't be closed until 2026. Stone is also making progress on 30% designs, aiming for a final package by early January. 30% designs will be presented to the Wastewater Committee then Selectboard.

   Also working with hydrogeologist to sample at the school and Flat Iron Road sampling to help with groundwater flow analysis. Working with a drip dispersal supplier. Based on current DEC policy, may be able to get to 30,000gpd without needing advance treatment. Stone can look into having advance treatment in the design to have as a placeholder for future phases. The EID is also moving forward – coordinating with NBRC funder and consultant.

4. **Meeting Scheduling**
   Next meetings scheduled – special meeting on January 2 from 3-5pm, and then regular meeting rescheduled to January 9 starting at 5pm. Linda will confirm meeting room availability.

5. **Ordinance Development**

J.B. led the discussion about the ordinance. The Board of Sewer Commissioners was discussed.

Capital construction charges will not be needed since no bond. Any system costs will be annual, including established reserve fund. Reserve fund is max of 15% (~$9,000) per state law, and would be added to the sewer use charge. A "unified sewer use charge" was discussed. Flat fees for residential units were also discussed, as shared during outreach sessions. Single family homes would have a flat fee, and would also include ADUs. Additional fees for units used as "lodging"/renting (i.e., Air Bnb). Flat fee also for multi family units. Town will pay unallocated capacity and for town buildings. Non residential rates are still TBD.

J.B. still needs the latest schedule of anticipated users. The Town can also reserve 10% of the total system capacity. The Committee further discussed capacity allocations process. A question came up about waivers for connection fees based on financial hardship, and the group will circle back to the discussion at a future meeting. Opt out provisions were revisited again too. Late summer/fall 2025 would be the cut off to "opt in" and connect during construction (and have all costs paid for).

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