



**Minutes of the Joint Meeting Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee and
Capital Improvement Planning Committee**

Date: June 7, 2022
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: McCourt Social Hall
Present: Chairman Woodbury, Vice-Chair Howard, Clerk Grigg, Member Hicks
Remote: Selectman Pepe
Finance Committee Members Present: Chairman Mary Braney, Paul McLaughlin, Bill Wall, Charles O'Connor, Ed Sproul, Chris Woodbury, Bill Shemeth
Remote: Nancy Tame and Virginia Davidson,
CIPC Members Present: Chris Woodbury, Bob Cirba, Paul Gleason, Shirley Shiver
Remote: Anthony Pepe

Call the Meeting to Order

At 6:00 pm Chairman Gary Woodbury called the Selectmen's meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chairman Braney called the Finance Committee Meeting to order, and Chairman Chris Woodbury called the Capital Improvements Planning Committee to order.

Announcement Any members that are participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law

Chairman Gary Woodbury announced that Selectman Pepe will be participating and Chairman Braney announced that Nancy Tame and Virginia Davidson will be participating remotely in accordance with Regulation 940, CMR 29.10 of the Open Meeting Law and as such, all votes will be taken by roll call.

Consideration and Possible Action on the June 23, 2022 Special Town Meeting Warrant (Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project)

Sewer Superintendent James Laplante and Sewer Commissioners Larry Dufault, Mike Mercandante, and Frank White were present. Ian Catlow and Ryan Siegel from Tighe and Bond were also present.

Mr. Catlow reported that bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade project were received from three prequalified contractors and opened at 2 pm today: Daniel O'Connell & Sons in the amount of \$43,662,070; CH Nickerson in the amount of \$41,393,910, and RH White in the amount of 45,840,000. The apparent low bidder is CH Nickerson; if all paperwork is in order, the request is to carry value of second lowest bidder in the event the first falls through. Assuming low bidder is vetted out, the value could be modified at the Town Meeting to reflect the lower amount. Mr. Catlow referenced a summary sheet and indicated that the total anticipated project request is \$49,904,974, which includes a 5% contingency fee and an additional six months of construction duration. The loan is entitled to a 17.4% principal forgiveness from the State and amounts to a savings of \$8,269,073.

Superintendent LaPlante pointed out that there are two other grants available: a Long Island Sound grant in the amount of \$1.5 million and a grant he is working on with Senator Gobi's Office which he hopes will provide an additional \$2 million.

Mr. Shemeth asked about the impact of this project on user rates. Mr. White estimates an average increase between \$175 and \$400 per year and will be based on usage.

Mr. Dufault noted the increase may be higher and is hopeful the additional grant funds will offset the increase which will be implemented over the next few years. Mr. Dufault said it make sense to begin a gradual increase now and will need to get the numbers and work that out.

Chairman Gary Woodbury asked about septage hauler rates and highly recommends the rates be reviewed.

Mr. Grigg inquired about regionalizing wastewater treatment with other communities. Mr. LaPlante indicated that the infrastructure makes it geographically impossible.

Nancy Tame asked if ARPA funds could be used for this project. Mr. LaPlante said federal ARPA funds are being used and the Town has provided ARPA funds for the Inflow and Infiltration Study.

Chairman Braney asked if grants may be applied for after the project is underway; Mr. LaPlante indicated that they could.

Charles O'Conner asked if the \$49 million in improvements will add capacity to the sewer system or if it will remain at 1,100 users. Mr. LaPlante said additional users will not be added initially, however it will happen as they mitigate areas with inflow and infiltration issues.

CIPC Chairman Chris Woodbury said he has concerns about the price increasing making it necessary to rebid the project. He pointed out issues with the Doherty High School project having to rebid and questioned whether it could happen with this project, which has already increased by 31%. Mr. Catlow said this project has been designed as a traditional bid project, therefore the prices are locked in; the Doherty project is a different construction delivery project.

CIPC: a motion to recommend to the Finance Committee and the Board of Selectmen that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project be set at a value of up to \$49,904,974 (Cirba/Shriver) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Cirba-yes, Gleason-yes, Pepe-yes, Shiver-yes, Woodbury-yes.

CIPC: a motion to approve the April 14 & 19, 2022 CIPC minutes (Cirba/Gleason) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Cirba-yes, Gleason-yes, Pepe-yes, Shiver-yes, Woodbury-yes.

CIPC: a motion to adjourn at 6:33 pm (Shiver/Cirba) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Cirba-yes, Gleason-yes, Pepe-yes, Shiver-yes, Woodbury-yes.

BOS: a motion to approve the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project option two (\$49,904,974) (Grigg/Hicks) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Pepe-yes, Howard-yes, Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Woodbury-yes.

FinCom: a motion to recommend approval of up to up to \$49,904,974 for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project (Wall/Spraul) passed 7/1 with a roll call vote: Wall-yes, Spraul-yes, Woodbury-no, O'Conner-yes, Tame-yes, McLaughlin-yes, Davidson-yes, Braney-yes.

FinCom: a motion to adjourn at 6:40 pm (Spraul/Mclaughlin) passed 8/0 with a roll call vote: Wall-yes, Spraul-yes, Woodbury-yes, O'Conner-yes, Tame-yes, McLaughlin-yes, Davidson-yes, Braney-yes

BOS: a motion to adjourn at 6:41 pm (Howard/Hicks) passed 5/0 with a roll call vote: Grigg-yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant

Referenced documents: WWTP Upgrade Project Summary Sheet