

A Public hearing for Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) was held April 11, 2022 at 7:04 pm in the Council Chambers.

Those people present were:

Mayor Roni Phillips

Councilors: Kelly Dillon, Wanda James, Thomas McCloskey, Shirley Iwata

Clerk: Brenda Schneider

Rodney Goins, Public Works Superintendent

Andrew Cadman, Public Works Assistant

Steve Temple, Fire Chief

Andy Short, County Planner

Chris Hayes, Engineer, RPA

Kaela Murphy, RPA

Citizens: Sherry Goins, Luke Ferguson, Lyle Ferguson, Marc Sancher, Julie Prater, Wayne Cashman

Mayor Phillips opened the meeting at 7:00 pm. Mayor Phillips stated that the purpose of the hearing is to obtain public comments regarding a proposed application to the Montana Department of Commerce's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program and other programs, as applicable, for a Wastewater System Improvements Project.

Chris Hayes, Engineer, gave a presentation of the Wastewater System Preliminary Engineering report.

Chris Hayes reviewed the history of the wastewater system. The wastewater system was originally constructed in 1969 with asbestos cement and vitrified clay tile pipe. Three lift stations installed throughout collection system & one centralized lift station at lagoons. Clay lined 2-cell discharging facultative lagoons built in 1984. Wastewater Collection System Improvements in 2000, 2004, & 2006. included Sludge removal, aeration system, lagoon liner, baffle, yard piping, and lagoon flow structures, UV disinfection building and replacement of Main Lift Station at lagoons and Osprey Drive sewer main project near Cedar Creek Golf Course.

The existing wastewater collection and treatment systems include.

- Gravity sewer mains mostly in alleys, some in roads. Approximately 421 sewer services.
- Old asbestos cement (AC), clay, & PVC from 6" to 10". Approximately 40,000 LF of sewer mains.
- New mains are PVC. Concrete manholes.
- 4 existing lift stations
- Lift Station #1 – 6" Flygt submersible pumps, 776 & 887 gpm, with backup generator.
- Lift Station #2 – 4" Flygt submersible pumps
- Lift Station #3 – 4" Flygt submersible pumps
- Lift Station #4 – 4" Gorman Rupp self-priming pumps
- From centralized lift station, WW is pumped via 8-inch DI force main to inlet structure.
- Two cell aerated lagoon system with synthetic liner.
- Aeration system with blowers, aeration piping, and coarse bubble diffusers.
- Lagoon inter pond piping and baffle curtain in Cell #2 to settle sludge.
- Level control structure.
- UV disinfection process.
- Weir and outfall structures, and outfall piping discharges to Clark Fork River.

- SCADA system recently updated

Chris Hayes reviewed the concerns wastewater system.

- Cell #1 has 2.0' & Cell #2 has 0.65' of sludge accumulation taking up treatment volume.
- Debris and rocks damaging centralized lift station pumps.
- Lagoon dikes are settling and have a potential to complete collapse into the river.
- Lagoon liners and baffle are damaged due to age, muskrats, and ground squirrels.
- Aeration diffusers are plugging and over amping the blowers due to "flushable wipes".
- Blowers are old, loud, and undersized for the application and located in small building.
- No headworks before wastewater enters lagoons to collect debris & "flushable wipes".
- Many MH lids in streets have been paved or graveled over preventing access to PWD.
- UV Building does not have running water for a sink or washdown water.
- Long sewer main that PWD has difficulty accessing and cleaning needs CIPP lined.
- Lift station has corrosion problems on guide rails and chains. Centralized lift station is in need of electric crane/winch to remove pumps.
- There is no influent flow measurement at the centralized lift station.
- Comparison of lagoon influent flow data of 65,617 gpd and effluent flow data of 34,292 gpd, shows lagoon liner leakage of approximately 50%.
- Collection mains need TV inspected and mains CIPP lined that are cracking or leaking.

Chris Hayes, Engineer, reviewed the alternatives for the recommended wastewater system improvements.

Chris Hayes reviewed the recommended Phase 1 and Phase 2 wastewater system improvements.
Phase 1---

- Alternative 3 – Sewer Main Replacement using CIPP - \$215,800
- Alternative 2 – New Blower Building and Blowers - \$805,095
- Alternative 3 – Replace Aeration Piping & Diffusers - \$449,300
- Alternative 3 – Sludge Removal with Landfill Disposal - \$992,200
- Alternative 2 – Replace Lagoon Liners, Baffle, and Repair Lagoon Dikes - \$1,022,900
- Alternative 2 – Install UV & Headworks Buildings Water Service - \$51,500
- Alternative 2 – Lift Station Improvements - \$19,300
- Alternative 2A – Mechanical Screen and Headworks Building before LS - \$1,208,200

Phase 2---

- Alternative 4 – Manhole Modifications (Raise MH Lids) - \$129,000
- Other CIPP Sewer Main CIPP Lining as funding becomes available.

TOTAL Phase 1 Costs - \$4,764,295

TOTAL Phase 2 Costs - \$129,000

TOTAL Phase 1 and Phase 2 Costs - \$4,893,295

Chris Hayes reviewed the various grant and loan funding opportunities available for the wastewater system improvements. Reviewed program requirements and the funding amounts available. Chris Hayes reviewed the funding that the Town has been awarded for the wastewater system improvements project. Chris Hayes reviewed the funding applications that have been submitted and are pending. Preliminary Cost Estimate for Recommended Phase 1 Improvements \$4,824,295

MCEP Planning Grant \$15,000

RRGL Planning Grant \$15,000

Superior ARPA Local Fiscal Funds \$222,132

Superior ARPA Minimum Allocation Funds \$197,163

ARPA Competitive Grant Round 1 \$2,000,000
Mineral County APRA Grant Funds (Pending) \$500,000
CDGB Grant (Pending) \$600,000
MCEP Grant (Pending) \$750,000
RRGL Grant (Pending) \$125,000
Local Cash \$400,000

Chris Hayes stated that at this time, assuming grant funding are awarded, user rates will not be raised as part of the project. Chris Hayes stated the grant applications to MCEP and RRGL will be submitted in May 2022. The grant application to CDBG will be submitted in September 2022. All additional funding options will be pursued where possible.

Thomas McCloskey asked about the need to rebuild and enlarge the blower building. Rodney Goins stated that there is very little room making it difficult to work on the blowers in the existing building. The front blower must be removed to service or work on the second blower. The blowers overheat due to not enough air circulation in the existing building.

With no further comments, the public hearing was adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Roni Phillips, Mayor

Attest
Brenda Schneider, Town Clerk