

TOWN OF CONSTANTIA
Informational Session – March 5, 2019
6:30 pm A.A. Cole Elementary School

Present: Kenneth Mosley - Supervisor
Richard Colesante, John Metzger, Thomas Moran, Frank Tomaino – Council Members
Clare Haynes – Town Clerk
Laureen Tackman – Mayor, Village of Cleveland
John Scatena– Village Trustees

Others Present: Eric Pond, Dustin Clark and David Powers – Barton & Loguidice

The purpose of this informational session is to update the public on the proposed sewer project for the Town of Constantia. Mr. Mosley told the approximately 75 people in attendance that there will be a presentation that will last about 20-25 mins, please hold all questions until the presentation is completed.

Information from slides:

Why municipal sewers are needed:

- Preservation of Oneida Lake
 - o Blue Green Algae in Oneida Lake
 - o Reduce nutrient load into lake (phosphorus, nitrogen, other pathogens)
- Remove Septic Systems
 - o Failing/improper septic systems
 - o Insufficient land, depth to water and soils for proper septic systems

Project Objective:

- Sanitary Sewer Collection System to Serve Interest Survey Area
 - o State Route 49 Corridor, Lower Rd, Doris Park, A.A. Cole, County Route 23-Kibbie Lake Rd Loop
 - o 62% of survey area in favor
- Turn-Key System
 - o No additional connection costs
 - o Septic decommissioning included in project
- Improvements to the Village of Cleveland WWTP
 - o Expand on current facilities in the Town
 - o Keep money local
- Annual Cost
 - o Target \$825 per year per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU, 1 EDU per each single family house equivalent)

Maximize Current Available Funding Sources:

- New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation
 - o NYSEFC Water Infrastructure Improvements Act (WIIA)
 - 25% of project cost not exceeding \$5,000,000
 - o NYSEFC Hardship Financing Program
 - Interest free (0%) financing for projects not exceeding \$20,000,000
 - Must meet Median Household Income (MHI) Requirements
- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
 - o NYSDEC Water Quality Improvements Project (WQIP)
 - 25% of project cost not exceeding \$5,000,000 for Eligible High Priority Projects

Project Development:

- Two projects, offset by 1 year for back-to-back grant applications
- With receipt of funding, no difference in schedule then if it were one project
- \$3M more grant eligibility!
 - o Project 1 Includes:
 - Sewer system from Village of Cleveland boundary to State Route 49 bend in the Constantia Hamlet (Frederick St)
 - Improvements to the Village of Cleveland WWTP
 - Approximately 630 EDU's
 - o Project 2 Includes:
 - Remaining sewer interest area
 - Approximately 537 EDU's

Town – Village Cooperation:

- Shared facility, shared investment, shared operation and maintenance
- Village will retain ownership and operation of the new WWTP
- Modern, energy efficient technology using biological treatment
- Local staff for grinder pump maintenance calls

Project Cost Estimate:

- Project No. 1
 - o Project Cost: \$26M-\$28M
 - o Turn-Key Project
 - o 630 EDU's
 - Typical Property Owner with Connection

- Debt Service \$525
 - Total O&M and SLA \$280
 - Annual Grinder Pump Electrical Cost \$ 20
 - Total \$825 per year (\$72/month)
- Project No. 2
 - o Project Cost: \$13M-\$15M
 - o Turn-Key Project
 - o 537 EDU's
 - Typical Property Owner with Connection
 - Debt Service \$525
 - Total O&M and SLA \$280
 - Annual Grinder Pump Electrical Cost \$ 20
 - Total \$825 per year (\$72/month)

Steps to Proceed:

- Project 1 District Formation, Bonding, SEQR – Spring 2019
- Project 1 Funding Applications – Summer 2019
- Project 1 Design & Permitting – 2021
- Project 1 Construction – 2022-2023
- Project 2 District Formations, Bonding, SEQR – Spring 2020
- Project 2 Funding Applications – Summer 2020
- Project 2 Design & Permitting – 2022
- Project 2 Constructions – 2023-2024

QUESTIONS:

How long with the \$825 be charged? The infrastructure will be a 30 year loan which will be a fixed amount on your tax bill. This amount will fluctuate a bit, same as the water infrastructure on your tax bills. As for the operation and maintenance (O&M) charge, this will increase as costs of running the plant and maintaining the system (grinder pumps) increase.

Looks like the project is following the railroad bed, is the highway department included in the project? Yes, the project does follow along the railroad bed and yes the highway department is included.

Will the slides from this presentation be available for review? Yes, they will be available at the Town Clerk's office and on the website.

Grinder pumps where will they be located? Grinder pumps are gravity fed and will be located in the general vicinity of your current septic tank.

What side of the street will the lines be located? This is still unknown as the development stage has not started, most likely on the opposite side of the water main.

People in Cleveland on the sewer system, what will happen to them? Village residents will still contributing to the project by splitting the O&M.

Zero percent loan from EFC is based on hardship does the Town qualify? This program uses the Census which has flawed data. The Town will need 80% of the statewide median income to qualify. The Town will be hiring a third party vender to do this survey. This will start with a mailing and then the company will go door to door to get statements for residents who do not return the income survey. The Town needs more accurate numbers to qualify for hardship funding. For the income survey you do not have to show your income, just make a statement.

The people getting service, will they be the only ones paying? Yes, if you are not in the district then you will not be paying.

Is it mandatory to hook up? It is in the property owner's best interest to hook up, but the Town cannot force someone to hook up. For the sewer project this is a turnkey project so the Town will need easements from every property owner for placement of the grinder pump. If they refuse then it can't be done, but the infrastructure charge will still be on their tax bill.

Why can't Doris Park be included in the first district? This is a funding issue, if the entire project was done at once the EDU charge would be \$1,100, with the loss of \$3M on the second project. There is no guarantee that the second project will be funded. All parties are supporting both these projects, but there are no guarantees when it comes to funding. The Bernhards Bay Water District is no different, had to start with the North Shore Water District and then wait for the funding to be available for Bernhards Bay. The Town has a good record getting their funding. At the present time Doris Park is in the 2nd phase, but this is still the preliminary design.

What can we do to protect ourselves against damage to our property, lots of problems when the water main was constructed. Protect yourselves, take pictures of existing conditions before construction starts.

Timeline for bonding, why get money before the construction begins? The bond resolution needs to be passed before going for grants. The bond resolutions is just an intent to borrow not the actual money. The \$825 discussed is the best case if the Town gets zero percent financing. B&L will be going after any grant and funding

possibilities that arise. Grant approval is an annual cycle, one opportunity to apply and one announcement period must have the bonding resolution approved before the Town can apply for funding.

If all goes as planned when can I expect to get my grinder pump? For the Bernhards Bay Sewer District – 2023.

You are saying \$20 a year for electric how much more for water usage? No different than the water that is being used now.

Of all projects what percentage of the second projects do not get funding? Mr. Pond answered that he is not aware of any projects that did not eventually get funding. Community support is big plus for any project, write letters get them to Clare Haynes, Town Clerk, letters of support mean a lot to people making decisions.

What is the useful life of the grinder pump? 15 to 20 years, under O&M there is a short lived assets reserve for replacement.

What type of system is this? It is a low pressure system, forced main so always pressure - not gravity.

Is DEC behind these projects? Yes, and this will help with State funding. DEC has been talking about this project for years, it is the only portion of the lake that does not have sewers. DEC has put Oneida Lake on the impaired body list.

Who will be maintaining the system? The Town will maintain the two pump stations and grinder pumps. The Village of Cleveland will continue to maintain the plant.

With Doris Park being in the second project, does that help the funding because it is the area that needs it the most? The Town Board would like to do this as one project, funding regulations are the reason for the two projects.

If my residence needs and electrical upgrade for the grinder pump, who will pay? This is a turn-key project the upgrade, to handle the grinder pump will be part of the project.

What would be the cost for the sewage to go to West Monroe? That concept is not supported by DEC, too far and practical issues. Makes the most sense to stay within the Town.

The Map Plan & Report covers both project areas with two phases. The Map Plan and Report calls Project 1 Village Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Bernhards Bay Sewer District. Project #2 is the Constantia Sewer District. No districts have been formed, hopefully in the next month or so with grant application in June.

How can we help? Write those letters, your words, your feedback to show the people making the decisions that this project is wanted and needed.

At 8:35 pm the session ended.