

Town Of Williamstown
Water and Sewer Commission
PUBLIC HEARING # 2

Williamstown Middle High School Library

03/02/2015

7:00 PM

Board Members: **Larry Hebert, Chair**
Matt Rouleau, Vice Chair
Rodney Graham, Selectman
Scott Vaillancourt, Selectman
Ed McGlynn, Selectman ABSENT

Town Manager: Jacqueline Higgins

Administrative Assistant: Donald Angolano

Public Hearing

This public hearing was called to discuss in the public forum the upgrade of the current Waste Water Treatment Facility.

The Select Board supports the bond issue as it has been present in the previous meeting and in their discussions with Aldrich and Elliot who conducted the engineering study.

Larry describes the project as something that may not be something the tax payers want, however, the facility is at a point in which it is required to be upgraded. He points out that there is a high potential to receive a grant that will cover 35% of the total cost of the project and that these funds will be fought more a lot more when the state enacts legislation to control Phosphorus output. Currently we have nothing to control the phosphorus output as it is not required, nor was it at the time the facility was built.

Jenney Auster from Aldrich and Elliott provided the following information

- No upgrades to the facility since 1969 – Normal is 20-30 years.
- Operations Building shows serious signs of deterioration.

- Equipment designed to remove solid chunks of waste is not fulfilling its duty as efficiently as possible with new equipment available in today's market.
- Blowers in the facility are not running efficiently as they are all or nothing when related to functionality. New equipment equals significant savings in energy costs.
- Chemical Storage is deteriorating and falling apart. Chemicals are overused due to the use of old equipment.
- If the current building were proposed for new construction. It would not receive State approval.
- Proposal is to replace the current building/infrastructure with a new building/infrastructure. The cost is \$1,700,000 (One Million Seven Hundred Thousand Dollars)

Various residents in attendance questioned the cost to them for a project of this magnitude. Especially in the instance that the USDA does not provide the 35% grant funding. Larry fielded these questions indicating that the Water and Sewer Commission would not proceed forward in that scenario without first putting the issue back onto the residents for a new Bond vote.

Matt indicated that the work is necessary to be completed. We face fines and significant cost increases if we wait to do this when mandated by the Federal government or the State. Matt concurs with Larry that this is something the residents need to vote on if the numbers don't come back as favorable as we hoped and anticipate.

Larry closes the hearing at 7:58 PM with no further discussion on the matter.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donald Angolano

Larry Hebert, Chairman

Rodney Graham, Selectman

Matt Rouleau, Vice Chairman

Scott Vaillancourt, Selectman