



TOWN OF GRANBY

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July 28, 2014 @ 5:00 P.M.

Members Present: Louis Barry, Mary McDowell, Mark Bail
Christopher Martin, Town Administrator

Chairman, Mark Bail, called the meeting to order at 5:00PM and led the board in the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Sewer Project:

Dennis Setzko of AECOM was at the meeting to explain what the point the sewer project was. With Mr. Martin, AECOM has come up with, what they think, is a reasonably priced project to help the Town of Granby. Mr. Setzko started with the Sanitary Sewer portion of this project. Right now, the sanitary sewer system ends at Five Corners, but AECOM wants to extend it to the town center.

AECOM wants to take care of the school system’s sewer problems by installing a new pump station and a forced main that runs from the schools to the new sewer station in the center of town. MacDuffie would get its own pipeline that will attach to the pump station at the high school, which will be attached to the gravity sewer system.

Mr. Setzko broke down the prices for the entire project. Looking at the center of town piece of this project (without this, the rest of the project could not be built), it costs about \$7.6 million. Looking at the high school section (the pump station and the forced main that would connect to the center of town), it would cost about \$3.4 million. Looking at the pipeline that will connect MacDuffie School to the pump station at Granby High School, it will cost about \$3.9 million. Mr. Setzko explained that these prices are strictly for sewer. There are no gas lines or water pipes worked into this proposal.

As for the water portion, the plan is to connect with the water line at the western town line, run the pipe through Five Corners, down Morgan Street, and connect it to a current water line. This plan would be about 12,400 ft. of water line and the town would be able to extend off of it in the future, if we wished. Mr. Setzko explained that the prices for this water project cannot be easily estimated as they could for the sewer project. In order to have a better estimation for the prices, AECOM would need to do a more in-depth evaluation of the size of the water pipes and how

much water flow would be needed. Even though AECOM could not give a very solid estimated price, they did come up with a price to start working with. They included the price of a water tank as they do not know if Granby needs one, but they decided to be on the safe side, resulting in a cost of \$10.2 million. Mr. Setzko just kept emphasizing that they would need to do a model test in order to find out what exactly the town needs for water pipe size, flow, and if the town needs a tank. Without the tank, the project could potentially cost \$5.7 million. Mr. Setzko does not want to speculate on any more than that.

Going back to the Sanitary Sewer Project, AECOM started thinking about how the Town of Granby will be able to fund these different phases, starting with the center of town piece. This phase would fall under the Comprehensive Waste/Water Management Plan (CWMP) and therefore would be the logical phase to get state funding due to how expensive and big the phase is. This is a project more for the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to handle at 2% loan money. Whereas the forced main from the town schools to the center of town is a low enough price for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities application. This application comes out in March annually, whereas the SRF comes out annually as well, but it is due on August 15th. Mr. Setzko stated that the Town may not be able to get the application in on time.

The water for the water line project will be coming from Quabbin, but instead of the water going to the east; it will go to the Connecticut River watershed that necessitates the need for an Inter-basin Transfer application. AECOM will need to make sure that that is all set before the application can be submitted. As for the entire project, AECOM believes that the project can be split up into two projects. If the project doesn't need a water tank, the estimated \$5.7 million could be split in half and the Town of Granby could apply for potential grants from both the SRF and the USDA.

Pam Desjardins of the Planning Board asked if the cost of the pipe line going from MacDuffie to the High School would be lowered because most of that space is fields.

There was plenty of discussion regarding how much MacDuffie will be connected to the sewer line. Especially since the corner of School Street is being discussed for potential commercial development. A good portion of the cost of this section of the sanitary sewer system would fall on MacDuffie and there was some discussion as to if this was fair or not and who would own the pump station and line.

There was discussion about the slight possibility of the application being ready to submit for August 15th. Pam Desjardins asked the Select Board to earnestly consider what the cost to the Town of Granby would be to wait yet another year for this project to start and what the cost would be to at least try to put the application in for August 15th.

There was discussion regarding paying for the additional AECOM time in completing the SRF application. One way to get the funding for this additional work would be to get a transfer from the Finance Committee's Reserve Fund. Another way discussed was to spend the money out of the Sewer Enterprise Fund and then get an additional appropriation at a future Town Meeting.

Chief Anderson of the Fire Department asked Mr. Setzko if AECOM has considered extending the water line further down Route 202 in order to reach more of the buildable land. Mr. Setzko said that they had considered it, but to find out if and how that can be done, a water model investigation has to be done. Chief Anderson also questioned whether or not they had considered running the water line from SHFD#2, down Pleasant Street and going the backwards. He also asked if the water tank would need land, because there is a concern as to the minimal land that can be used in the area of which this plan referenced. Mr. Setzko could not answer these questions, but explained that he will still be considering more options throughout the process of finding out more about this project. Pam Desjardins agreed with Chief Anderson with the fact that the current plan for the waterline would service residents, but not any areas that could be made into businesses.

Mr. Setzko kept repeating that there are many avenues to look down and he needs to look at more evaluations of the current system before he has any answers. Mr. Setzko said that Granby can go ahead and apply to the SRF grant if we wish, but he doesn't have enough information in order for Granby to apply for any other grants at this moment.

Mr. Barry brought the conversation back to how the Town of Granby was going to pay for this. He asked about the part of the sanitary sewer system that is between the Granby High School and the MacDuffie School would not be owned by the school, even if they paid for it, because the town needs to ultimately own it. The pump stations can be owned and paid for by a private entity, but not the pipeline itself. Mr. Setzko believes that it could probably be owned by the school without a problem, but if other users started attaching to the system then it will become an issue with the schools paying for it.

Mr. Martin said that Granby could pay for this if they took it out of the sewer enterprise fund. Mr. Martin asked Mr. Setzko if the town focused on the sewer project, leaving the water line out of it, could AECOM get an application together for SRF and submit it by August 15th. Mr. Setzko said he would have to get back to Mr. Martin tomorrow, but he said he was sure he could do it.

Mr. Bail expressed his concerns with taking the money out of the sewer enterprise fund in order to pay for the application submission. Mr. Martin stated that the application submission could cost anywhere between \$12,000-15,000 and that is being conservative. Pam Desjardins expressed her concerns about the diminishing Stabilization Fund and how she believes that Granby needs more development if the town wants to survive. Dave Desrosiers, Highway Department Supervisor, told the board that the septic system regulations will be changing and the septic system that Kellogg Street, some of West Street, and Smith Avenue are all a part of, will need constant Title 5 inspections. However, if the septic system fails the inspection, that community will be paying a whole lot more than the \$12,000-15,000 that the application submission will cost.

The Select Board all appeared to agree that if the cost of the application submission is under \$15,000 then they will borrow the money from the Sewer Enterprise Fund. Mrs. McDowell looked to Mr. Setzko for a promise that they will work their hardest all the way through this project.

Mr. Setzko explained that August 15th is the date to apply for the SRF grant, and the town is not committed to anything unless our application has been accepted. That will be when we would need a town vote that says the Town of Granby can pay for this project. The SRF comes out with a list of projects that they can fund this time around. That list typically comes out mid-October.

Ms. Desjardins asked if Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds could be used to assist the Town in this. Mr. Setzko was unable to answer at this time but would research it and get back to the Town with an answer.

Mrs. McDowell asked about the reapplication process if our application is not approved this year. Mr. Setzko explained that there isn't too much leg work involved in reapplying. The reapplication process should cost about \$5,000.

When discussing payment for the rest of the money that is needed to fund the first phase of the sewer project, Mr. Martin could only say that the town would need to know figure out if they want to pay all at once or over a 20 year period. Mr. Barry asked about the housing that is along route 202 and Mr. Martin explained that only the houses along route 202 will get charged a betterment fee for using the new sanitary sewer system. The neighborhood that is currently using a community septic system will just be hooked up to the new sewer system instead. The houses that are currently hooked up to the community septic system are paying a user fee and their costs will probably be adjusted when they are hooked up to the new sewer system. Since they are already paying a user fee, they will not be charged the betterment fee.

Carole Bielizna, representing MacDuffie School, asked Mr. Setzko to explain how he got the costs of each phase of the sanitary sewer project. She asked this because she wanted to understand how the distance between MacDuffie and the High School is shorter than the distance between the High School and the center of town, but costs more. There were disagreements as to the accurate distance from MacDuffie to the High School versus the High School to the center of town. Mr. Setzko used GIS (Geographic Information System) and found the distance between MacDuffie and the High School to be longer, but when Ms. Bielizna drove the two distances, she found the distance from the High School to the center of town to be longer.

Mr. Setzko explained that he got the prices between looking at square footage, lineal footage, and culvert crossings. He also included the cost of paving the road as well because there is a slight possibility that the forced mains will be under the road. Mr. Setzko explained that the forced main is cheaper because it is very shallow in the ground where as the gravity main system is more expensive because it could be underground up to 12 feet.

This entire plan for the center of town includes West Street School.

Ms. Bielizna asked for an estimated time of the entire sanitary sewer project, all three phases. Mr. Setzko stated that he sees Granby having a five year plan. He states that the Town of Granby could shorten that plan, but he is doubtful that Granby would do this all in two years or take up ten years. Pam Desjardins has talked to people about this sewer system installation and they have told her that the maximum length of this project is four years. Mr. Setzko said that four years

may be pushing it, but it is not impossible. Pam Desjardins continued to explain that she feels that MacDuffie needs this sewer system and they are at the tail end of this plan, so this project needs to be moved along as quickly and efficiently as possible.

With the discussion of payment of this project, Mr. Bail expressed that the town can get as many loans as they want, but they have to pay the money back eventually. Pam Desjardins expressed her thoughts that the town residents will understand the importance of this sewer project and another override could be passed. She wants to see a public discussion of this project. Mr. Bail agreed with that.

On a motion by Mr. Barry, seconded by Ms. McDowell, the board unanimously authorized up to \$15,000 from the town's Sewer Enterprise Fund to pay for submission of the SRF application prior to August 15th.

There was further discussion about the time span before this project can begin. Ms. Bielizna expressed her concern of the Town of Granby never getting to the second or third stage of this Sanitary Sewer Project. That concern has been born through the fact that the SRF application is only for the first phase of the sewer project (the movement of the sewer system from Five Corners to the center of town.) Mrs. McDowell expressed her concern of the High School going without this new sewer system and she knows that MacDuffie is going through the same issues. She explained that these two things are what make her want to continue with this project. Mr. Barry contributed the fact that phases two and three are going to be funded by USDA mostly and that is another set of deadlines and application processes.

Ms. Desjardins reiterated her want for this project to be on a strategic, well planned process, which keeps the project constantly moving. That means being prepared to apply for USDA funds before we need to be. Ms. Desjardins concern is the same as Ms. Bielizna's in that the Town of Granby will look only at phase one first, then consider phase two when phase one is complete.

Dr. Isabelina Rodriguez, Superintendent of Granby Public Schools, asked if the Select Board theoretically can apply for the USDA funds this year and Mr. Barry explained that as soon as they know that phase one is funded by SRF, they can apply for the Rural Utilities grant that has a deadline in spring 2015.

The Select Board has the intention to constantly keep this Sanitary Sewer Project going, but each board member has their own concerns about the project. Mr. Bail is very concerned about how the town will pay for this system and the disappointment of residents who have to start paying betterment fees that do not want them. Mr. Barry has a similar concern about that, but he is even more concerned if MacDuffie will be able to handle the fiscal responsibility of paying for their forced main that connects them to the High School, or if the town will have to help them out.

Ms. Bielizna explained that she will have to speak to MacDuffie's ownership group, but she is fairly positive that MacDuffie cannot take on that full fiscal responsibility right now. There was also discussion about asking the man who is putting up buildings on the corner of School Street and Route 202 to participate in the Sewer System project.

There was further concern from Dr. Rodriguez of the Public Schools coming to the town for money at the same time the School Building project comes to the town for money.

Primary Ballot: On a motion from Mr. Barry, seconded by Mrs. McDowell, the board unanimously signed the warrant for the Tuesday, September 9, 2014 from 7am-8pm at East Meadow School Primary Ballot.

Adjournment: On a motion from Mr. Bail, seconded by Mrs. McDowell, the board unanimously adjourned their July 28, 2014 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Olivia DePino, Clerk
Christopher Martin
Town Administrator