

February 1, 2024

BLCS Committee Meeting

Committee Members Present: Mike Cullen, Leslie Brenker, Bruce Bowler, Joe Jordan, and Peter Lyon

Staff Present: DPW Director Eric Slosek

Mike called the meeting to order at 5:00PM. There was no one present for Citizen Forum.

Joe discussed the FY25 budget. He explained that the budget was \$104,200. Joe explained what the major increases were and that everyone's expenses will increase to \$363.47 per quarter. Phases 2-4 will still have the electric to pay for and phases 3 and 4 still have the loan which expires in FY26. With those figures added in to phases 2-4, their quarterly bill will be: phase 2 \$386.14, phase 3 \$602.32 and phase 4 \$640.36.

The phone charges for phases 2-4 are going away as all phone lines have been eliminated as they weren't really doing anything. Folks on phase 1 can also disconnect their phone lines if they still have one for the system. The internet for the pump house has also been disconnected which will result in a \$13K savings per year.

As for the increases, phase 1 has the largest increase, percentage wise, as compared to the other 3 phases. The new FY25 budget is increased by 40% over FY24. One of the increases is for a new monitoring/maintenance company, which is a little more than double the old company. However, the new firm is much more responsive when problems occur and provides all inspections reports which we have never been able to get from the previous company.

There was a brief discussion regarding the user pumping their own septic tank rather than the town which would result in additional savings to the quarterly billing. The town doesn't keep track as to who is there full time or part time, and as a result pumps on bi-annual schedule, which may not be needed for seasonal or part time occupants. Also, tank size ranges from 1250-2500 gallons so pumping cost ranges from \$300-\$650.

Regarding increases to the Equipment Repair and Maintenance, additional funding was added to prepare for issues with any of the equipment that may arise, as the system is aging, requiring an increase level of repair. Additionally, we feel it is important to begin stocking some parts in order to expedite such repairs. We are also budgeting for a generator to keep the system operational in the event of a power outage. This is important as several users have generators which continue to pump sewage to an offline system. The generator is big enough to allow the system to increase in size should that happen.

It was discussed that the more folks that tie in it will help reduce pollutants in the lake, which is true, but for now NHDES will not allow us to expand the system. Joe has been in contact with the state about this and is taking daily readings to help make the case to allow more users, which would also help to lower the cost to the existing users of the system.

It was also discussed that we would like to have a meeting of all the users sometime after the town vote in March. The meeting would be to discuss the new budget and why the increases are needed.

Year to date about 70% of the budget has been used and we should be good for the rest of the FY 24 budget.

Joe will also put together a bullet point spreadsheet and send it to the committee members to help them explain to other users should they have any questions about the increase in the budget for FY25. Joe will try to make this as simple as he can for the users to understand and identify ways he thinks savings can be realized.

The ordinances were also discussed, and some changes will need to be made soon.

Next meeting is scheduled for March 7.

Mike motioned and Leslie second to adjourn the meeting.