3-28-24

Baboosic Lake Community Septic Committee

Attendees: Mike Cullen, Leslie Brenker, Bruce Bowler, Joe Jordan and Eric Slosek

The meeting was called to order at 4:30PM.

There was no Citizen Forum as no public was in attendance.

Joe had put together a [Power Point presentation](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.amherstnh.gov%2Fsites%2Fg%2Ffiles%2Fvyhlif4116%2Ff%2Fuploads%2Frate_presentation_blcs.pptx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) that he wanted to go over prior to the public meeting. He wants to schedule a meeting in April with all the users to explain the history of the system and the need to increase user fees. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday April 10 at the Amherst Fire Rescue building for 6:00PM.

The financial system for the community septic is called an Enterprise Fund which is intended to have user fees cover all the expenses of the system. An Enterprise fund is separate of the general fund. The presentation explained how the fees haven’t been covering all the expenses and the need for new fees that will cover the cost as well start a reserve fund that can cover emergency repairs that aren’t budgeted for.

The loans for Phases 3 and 4 will be paid off in FY26. At that time their costs will be reduced by the loan amount and then will be billed only for operating costs. Some of the increases in the budget is for a new service company that we began using in2023. It is a local company that is more responsive than the prior one and provides inspectional reports, which the former company would not. Other budget increases include upgrades including installing a new back-up generator and begin replacing existing steel manhole covers with composite covers. The composite covers are much lighter than the steel which makes them easier to lift off, which is not only a safety issue for staff but also minimizes the chance of the covers flipping when removing. When the covers flip, they have broken plumbing and electronics inside the pump chamber. The new composite covers are much lighter and just as strong.

Another area that needs to be investigated is I/I which is Inflow and Infiltration. Inflow is an illegal connection such as a sump pump or roof leader that is connected to the sewer system, and infiltration is groundwater leaking into pipes during high water times which can exceed the treatment capacity of the system. I/I is very important to remove and needs further investigation.

We also need to look into improvements and upgrades as neither has ever been addressed. These could include new infrastructures like isolation valves to shutdown sections rather than the entire system which must happen now if there is a major problem. We are also looking into other ways to reduce expenses which included doing away with the phone lines and the internet at the pump house. Another one that will be looked at is that each homeowner takes over their tank pumping rather than just being done every other year. The reason for this is that the town doesn’t know when property is occupied or not and some tanks could go 2-4 years before needing to be pumped. The new rates will also allow us to be more proactive with the maintenance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00PM.