

CANAAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY UPGRADES

INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

FEBRUARY 26, 2018

The February 26, 2018 Canaan WWTF Informational Meeting was opened at 5:30PM by Chairman Gregory Noyes.

See attached list for those present.

David Ceppetelli from Tata and Howard was present to explain the propose projects that would be included in the \$400,000 Bond Request for upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility. The project would include two grinding systems, one for the septage receiving, which would be an above ground unit and one for the collection system which would be below grade in a concrete structure. The facility has been experiencing a high volume of “rags/wipes”, for the last few years, which have been binding up the pumps in both the septage receiving system and collection system. (Note: Dave had a photograph of a pump that had been recently pulled demonstrating the ‘rags’ attached). Brian Bissonnette (Assistant Operator) stated that the pumps are pulled and cleaned about every six days, sometimes twice in one day which takes an average of 1 ½ hours to clean. The Selectboard has done a few campaigns (articles in the newsletter as well as notices in the quarterly billing) to alert the users of these problems and requested that they limit the use of pre moistened wipes in hopes that this would solve the issues. Unfortunately it has not.

The second portion of this project will be the installation of a telemetry system on four pump stations (Ethan Allen, Houle, Camp and VT Rte. 114). The Telemetry system will allow the operator through a computer program to monitor each pump station and be notified of any problems with the stations. The operator is able to receive these alerts on a computer or iPhone from any location. The telemetry will allow the Operators more time to plan and conduct preventative maintenance at the WWTF, thus greater efficiency. It will also alert them when there is an issue in real time. Currently they only have a visual alarm (red light). The radio telemetry system will help to address issues quickly and eliminate costly off-hour/overtime repairs.

Questions and remarks from those present.

Dan Frechette asked what the cost of the grinders is estimated at. Dave answered that the estimated cost is approximately \$253,000.00.

Rob Kimball thought the Septage Hauling Company should pay for the grinder needed for the Septage Receiving system. Gregory Noyes answered that the hauler is charged per gallon for the septage dumped into the system and that income has been substantial enough that it will probably take care of the yearly loan amount.

Rob Kimball also commented that a muffin monster was taken out of the old plant and just thrown away and asked why it wasn't salvaged for this plant. Gregory stated that it was not actually thrown away, it was brought up to the town garage and offered to Stewartstown but they refused it so it was then disposed of.

Dan Frechette asked why these grinding systems weren't designed into the plant when it was rebuilt two years ago. Dave answered that this "rag/wipes" problem has been a recent development all over the country and it was not known how much of an issue it may have been at the time during design. Thus the adaptation of the WWTF to accommodate flushable wipes has become a necessity.

Rob Kimball stated that he felt the Property Taxes and Utility bills in town were high enough as is and if more is added residents won't be able to afford to own property in Canaan. Gregory stated that the proposed cost for the bond would be about \$20.00 per ECU per year or \$5.00 per quarter for the users on the system.

No additional comments or questions.

Chairman Gregory Noyes adjourned the February 26, 2018 Canaan Wastewater Treatment Facility Upgrades Informational Meeting at 6:00PM.