

Public Works and Buildings Committee
City Hall Council Chambers
Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT

Councilor David Walker, Chairman
Councilor Jim Gray- Vice Chairman
Councilor Chris Rice

OTHERS PRESENT

Councilor Don Hamann – present via Microsoft Teams Meet
Peter C. Nourse PE, Director of City Service
Daniel Camara, GIS / Asset Management

MINUTES

Councilor Walker called the Public Works and Building Committee to order at 7PM

1. Public Input

None

2. Cleaning, Sanitary and Baby Wipes – DO NOT FLUSH

Mr. Nourse stated that this topic of discussion has come up previously and he would like to convey the concerns again. He described the problems cause due to wipes of all types being flushed. He discussed the significant financial impacts and the hazards to City Staff that have to manually clear the clogs. He noted that this is a nationwide problem that can only be corrected through public outreach as the legislators are not ready to prohibit the packaging that states they are flushable. Mr. Nourse stated that the DPW will be putting up a new posting on the City's website and he wanted to let the Councilor know.

3. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Infrastructure Update

Mr. Nourse stated that the ARPA funding was \$350 Billion nationwide and 11 Billion to NH. He stated that funds came in through Municipalities like Rochester, it also came in to the State of NH to be given out as loans and grants through NHDES State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs. He named the Cleanwater SRF, and Drinking SRF & Groundwater SRF as the sources. He stated that of the \$6 Million that is coming to the City the DPW submitted 6 Water and Wastewater projects, and were awarded funds towards two of those projects. The DPW received 2 million for the Water Transmission Pipe lining and \$600 thousand toward the Rt. 202A Water Main Extension Project. He stated that there were 5 projects not funded at the City level and he stated that the City submitted these projects for State of NH Funds in both Drinking Water and Cleanwater SRF categories. He stated we received a \$1.6 million Grant from the Drinking Water Fund to be used on the Cocheco Well Upgrade Project. The total project cost is \$5.6 million. So that would be almost 30% of the project. He stated for this project we also have submitted and been recommended to receive an additional grant of \$560,000 toward the project from Drinking Water Trust Fund (DWTF), bringing the total grant amount to

40% of the project. Mr. Nourse stated that the DWTF Grants like to see multiple funding sources and that the award may be based partly on that criteria. He stated on the Wastewater side we have submitted several projects to the Cleanwater State Revolving Fund Loan (CWSRF) program and those are prioritized by NHDES and they would be using that prioritization list for the distribution of the ARPA funds. He said they have limited that to \$2 million per Community. Mr. Nourse discussed that the Septage Receiving Facility Project is a \$900,000 project that was submitted by Senator Shaheen for the Congressional Delegated Grant Funding Program (CDG), but this program has not yet been funded and it is unclear if it will be. He stated that CWSRF Program has noted that if not funded by the CDG program the CWSRF will fund it at 30% from the ARPA Funding. Mr. Nourse stated that CWSRF has committed \$100,000 of the ARP funds for Sewer System Master Plan, which is 100% of this project and they have committed \$379,500 in ARPA funds toward the Ledgeview Drive Pump Station Project which is a \$1,265,000 project. In addition to the ARPA Funds the CWSRF loan program will grant 10% principal forgiveness for this pump station upgrade project, for a total grant and forgiveness amount of \$468,050. Mr. Nourse stated that CWSRF has also awarded 30% ARPA funding for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Secondary Clarifier Project. He stated the total project amount is \$1,300,000 and the ARPA grant award is \$390,000, plus the additional 10% for CWSRF loan forgiveness at \$130,000. The total grant and forgiveness for this project is \$520,000. He stated that there are a number of projects that are lower on the CWSRF priority listing but will not make the cut for additional ARPA funds. Mr. Nourse stated that there is also 45 Million of Federal Infrastructure project funds coming to the State of NH to be used on roadway and bridge projects. He noted that the Rt. 11 Capacity Improvement Project has been bumped from the FY31 to FY28 due to these additional funds but the Rt.11 Safety Improvements have gone from FY26 to FY27 for some reason that he does not know.

4. New DPW Updated

Mr. Nourse stated that the facility is at 96% complete including construction, installation and start-up of equipment. Total completed and stored to date is \$17,249,575 with approximately \$900,000 being retained, there is about \$667,000 left to bill. He stated the contingency is at 69% remaining and there are several outstanding change orders that will lessen that number. Councilor Rice asked if the remaining changes are going to be costly. Mr. Nourse stated that there are two changes pending that will be costly. The first is the lift equipment at approximately \$72,000 for equipment and stair and duct bank modifications and the second is the changes necessary for the sander bay platforms. He said he doesn't know that cost yet, but as these will be steel modifications he expect it to be costly. Mr. Nourse stated that the Public Works Committee and others had toured the facility on December 3, 2021. Mr. Nourse reviewed all of the mechanical testing, startup and inspection that are going on at the facility now and he stated the contractor is working on the administrative area punch list. Mr. Nourse stated that Eversource and Unitil had come through and completed their final walk through for the energy savings incentive programs. He stated that combined there will be approximately \$100,000 coming from the two. Mr. Nourse stated that the building had been given a Occupancy Permit (OP) for the administrative spaces, but the rest of the building OP is pending the installation of an arc fault interrupter. He explained that the administrative and engineering staff would move to the new location on 12/22/2021 and the Utility Billing

Staff will be moving on 12/28/2021. He mentioned that the New City Council will be touring the building on 1/7/2021.

5. 45 Old Dover Road – Environmental Assessment -

Mr. Nourse stated that the Phase 1 Assessment was completed last summer and there were 9 Recognized Environmental Conditions (REC) based on documented spill events that had occurred at the facility. He stated that the Phase II Assessment looked at these sites and others for hazardous contaminants. They used ground water monitor wells, borings and soil sampling. Among others contaminants they looked for PCBs, VOCs, CVOs (Chlorinated Volatile Organic Compounds) and 1,4-Dioxane and PAH's. He stated that given the facility history, these are some of the contaminants you might find. Mr. Nourse stated that the findings noted elevated PAH and Arsenic slightly above the ambient groundwater standard and PFOS just at the ambient ground water standard of 12 parts per trillions. He quoted the report stating "The Phase II findings did not support and/or did not strongly support the 9 REC that had been reported." He stated that elevated levels of PAH and Arsenic may not make the property suitable to unrestricted residential land use, if future development for residential use is considered it may require additional sampling and soils management to assess extent of PAHs and Arsenic Levels in the soil and to mitigate potential risk. Mr. Nourse stated that overall the report is favorable and complete. He stated that it will be sent in to EPA for approval, but for now the City Council can reference the report and determine how they would like to market the site. He stated the City's assessed value of the two parcels that make up the site is \$2,314,500.00. Councilor Hamann discussed marketing sooner rather than later. Mr. Nourse mentioned that the facility will be occupied until March and then it would take several months to clean out.

6. Stormwater – Long Term Management Program:

Mr. Nourse stated that the DPW will be submitting a request in the FY2023 Budget for a Storm Water Feasibility Study. The agreement with the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) requires that a Storm Water Utility must be considered by February of 2024. This study will meet that criteria and give the City the information to consider the financial implications of developing a Storm Water Utility and the processes for treating storm water. Mr. Nourse shared the six topics to be considered in a Storm water Feasibility Study:

1. Financial – What does it cost now to comply with the regulations and what would it cost in the future.
2. Rate based Development – parcel land use data / rate methodology
3. Public Out Reach
4. Credit incentive program required by RSA
5. Billing / Funding Alternatives
6. A Storm Water Utility Ordinance that specifies fees, credits program and governance of the funds.

Mr. Nourse stated that historically these storm water management has been funded by the general fund, which are the tax payers. This includes street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and drainage facility cleaning. There are alternatives for funding that could include funding the storm water operation with permit fees or creating a Storm Water Utility that would operate as an enterprise fund like the water and sewer funds. He stated that there are pros and cons to each of these methods. Mr. Nourse stated that a

Storm Water Task Force would be developed to guide the feasibility study. The task force would be made up of City Staff, City Decision makers (Councilors) and Business owners. Mr. Nourse stated that he is starting to develop a list of knowledgeable staff members to ask to participate. He stated that typically it would be the City Manager, the City Engineer, Director of Finance, Director of Planning, GIS Coordinator, a representative from the Public Works Committee, and another City Councilor. He stated that members from the public an industry owner, business people or someone from the Chamber of Commerce.

7. **Other:**

NHDOT Spaulding Turnpike Sound Barrier Project / Toll Booth Removal –

Councilor Gray stated that there are residents bordering this project area that have concerns. He stated that he is working with NHDOT to have meeting with the residents at the new DPW Facility in January. He stated that there would be residents and representatives from NHDOT at the meeting.

Brock Street – Councilor Walker stated that the Unitil Cuts on Brock Street have recessed and should be patched in the spring.

Winter Operation – Mr. Nourse stated that many of the City’s plow staff are new to the City and some our new to plowing anywhere. He expects this year to be a learning year for them. He asked that if the Councilors receive any complaint they pass them on to him and he will be sure to address them.

Phosphorus / Metals Permit – Mr. Nourse stated that he has concern that the City may receive a new draft permit regarding the phosphorus discharge limits at the WWTP. He wanted to let the Committee know that he is planning to have the legal team in to update the new City Council with these new concerns regarding phosphorus and to bring them up to date on the nitrogen permit negotiations of the last several years.

Pavement Conditions Assessment – Mr. Nourse informed the Committee that the high tech vehicle has been in the City recently and that they have gathered all of the information to update the pavement conditions index (PCI). He explained that this \$1 million dollar van is used to gather all of the pavement conditions and he explained that this is completed about every 5 years. He said the update will not be available to much later in the year. He explained that the last time the PCI was run, with the approximate 1 million in funding, Estes Road came up to be reclaimed and paved. He said to do this road correctly it will likely eat up all of this year’s pavement rehabilitation funds and the new PCI information will be used in next year’s recommendations.

Councilor Hamann stated that as it was Councilor Walkers last night as the Chair of this Committee he would like to thank Councilor for the years of service on the Public Works Committee. He thanked him and stated that wished the Councilor well.

Councilor Walker adjourned the meeting at 7:42 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Lisa J. Clark, City of Rochester Administration and Utility Billing Supervisor.