

**TOWN OF CASTLETON  
SEWER BOARD MINUTES  
Monday, December 28, 2020, 2019 at 7:00pm  
Castleton Town Hall  
263 VT – 30  
Bomoseen, VT 05732**

**PRESENT:** Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Zack Holzworth, Secretary; Joseph Mark, Select Board Parliamentarian; Robert Spaulding, Member; Michael Jones, Town Manager; Wayne Elliot; Ed Savage, Jeff Lewis

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair, Mr. Leamy at 7:01 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mr. Leamy led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Spaulding made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

Mr. Holzworth made a motion to accept the minutes of 12/14/2020 as presented. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. No discussion happened. All were in favor and the motion passed.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS (not on the agenda):** No citizens comments

**WWTF: 20-YEAR UPGRADE ENGINEERING PROPOSAL:**

Mr. Elliott started the discussion asking if there were any questions from the board on the letter that Mr. Jones presented to them. He advised that the letter was reflective of their (Aldrich & Elliott) proposal. There were no questions from the board on Mr. Jones' letter.

Mr. Mark inquired about whether the monetary figures in the proposal from Aldrich & Elliott was reflective of a 20-Year bond, as was discussed in a previous meeting. Mr. Elliott replied that the latest figures in a handout dated 12/23/2020 reflect a 20-year term.

Mr. Spaulding inquired why Aldrich & Elliott presented tearing down the building over the SBR tanks. Mr. Elliott responded by stating that removal is an option and would not ever get any easier if the Town moves forward with other proposed upgrades to the SBR decanter tanks. He advised that a full building over these tanks was an industry standard at the time, but this has changed over the years. Fully enclosed buildings require electrical components that are suitable for a classified confined space and an enclosed building creates some ventilation issues due to moisture and dew point because the building is not heated. These conditions have made it tough on the ceiling and walls just because of the interior conditions that exist because the building is enclosed. Mr. Elliott again stated that removal of the roof and three walls as proposed is not a requirement, but more of a choice because it will not get any easier than during the upgrades of the SBR tanks and decanters. Mr. Elliott also stated that it probably will not get any cheaper due to the 40% construction subsidy currently available.

Mr. Elliott reviewed the two additions to the original proposal. The first addition was slip lining of the existing sewer line that runs from Castleton Four Corners east toward the main pump station,

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**WWTF: 20-YEAR UPGRADE ENGINEERING PROPOSAL (Con't):**

designated in the proposal as alternative #3. Mr. Elliott explained that the first step would be to have the lines televised to determine their current condition. Mr. Elliot also discussed the replacement of the Bomoseen pump station, designated as alternative #3 for that portion of the upgrade proposal. He explained that alternative #3 is an above ground pump station that is more costly, but eliminates the confined space access, something preferred by employees, and use the existing dry-well to be converted to additional operating volume. A permanent generator would be installed on site and an automatic transfer switch.

Reviewing Section 8.2 of the proposal, the following upgrades are proposed for the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The preliminary treatment head works would have a new rotary screen installed of similar size. The sequential batch reactors (SBR) would have new blowers installed. The system in the bottom of the tanks would be replaced with a fine bubble air diffuser system. New oxygen probes would be replaced in each tank would be replaced. The current decanters would be upgraded. New level monitoring would be installed. The Ultraviolet disinfection system would be replaced with a more efficient horizontal two-bank system that uses less bulbs and can be adjusted based on flow to help conserve energy, which could reduce electrical costs.

Age related improvement would include replacing the alum storage tanks, feed lines, metering pumps, and refurbish the existing process water system. The SCADA system would be replaced in the control building.

The project schedule under Section 8.3 is based on a March 2, 2021 bond vote. The design and permitting would take place the majority of 2021 Solicitation of bids for construction would happen in early 2022 with the majority construction taking place in 2022. No issues with permits are foreseen.

Constructions costs under Section 8.6 are based on a 2022 construction season. The project costs for the Bomoseen pump station and slip lining existing sewer lines under Castleton Four Corners is estimated at \$425,000. The upgrades to the waste water treatment facility is estimated at \$2,075,000. Under Section 8.8, the total project cost is estimated to be \$3,500,000. Mr. Elliott explained the different types of funding and recommended using the State's Clean Water SRF loan program. He explained that under the program there is a 50% subsidy for engineering and a 40% subsidy for construction (up to \$2M). The total amount for the Clean Water SRF load is estimated to be \$2,149,550 and an annual loan (2% for 20 years) payment of \$131,800. Mr. Elliott advised that if the Town stays on the proposed schedule, the first payment is due one year following construction, or due in 2023.

Mr. Jones addressed the board and advised that as of 6/30/2021, the sewer reserve fund is projected to have \$359,000 available for use. Mr. Jones presented some budget figures that he stated were based on an annual loan amount not to exceed \$95,000. This figure would help contain the sewer rates by not having a huge spike in the annual operating budget. Mr. Jones explained that the annual loan payment is a component of the annual operating budget. Mr. Jones stated that the board would have to decide whether or not to use capital from the sewer reserve to pay for some components of the project or

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include all of the upgrades into the loan amount. He advised that by including all the proposed upgrade components into the loan, that the estimated annual loan payment for the next 20 years would be included in the annual operating budget, and ultimately increase the annual sewer user rates substantially starting in 2023 when the first loan payment comes due. Mr. Jones advised that the cost of replacing the Bomoseen pump station and the slip lining of the sewer line at Castleton Corners is projected to cost \$425,000. As Mr. Elliott stated, if the Town decided to have this work done outside the State's program, it would cost less. Mr. Jones urged the board to consider using sewer reserve funds to upgrade the Bomoseen pump station and slip lining of the sewer lines at Castleton Corners on our own over fiscal years 2022-2023.

**BOARD COMMENTS/CONCERNS:**

Mr. Mark wanted to be clear that upgrading the Bomoseen pump station in 2022 out of our reserve funds, slip lining the sewer pipe under Castleton Corners using reserve funds in 2023 and keeping the annual sewer user rates below \$510 was acceptable to him.

Mr. Combs expressed his concern over use of the sewer reserve funds, stating that he wanted to sure that any decision the board makes to use sewer reserve funds to upgrade the Bomoseen pump station and slip lining of the sewer pipes at Castleton Corners does not deplete the sewer reserve should there be a catastrophic failure that we done have the money to take care of it.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Combs made a motion to adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 7:31 p.m. Mr. Spaulding seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Jones  
Town Manager