

## **CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP**

### **Workshop – Wright Pierce Engineers – Presentation regarding Wastewater Treatment Facility upgrades.**

**December 4, 2017 at 6:00pm**

Councilors Pepin, Dumont, McCallion, Messier, Witham and Cameron were present.

Councilor Witham opened the workshop at 6:00 pm.

Present from Wright Pierce Engineers is Timothy Vadney, PE and Lindsey Shields, PE.

Their presentation regarding the wastewater treatment facility upgrades is attached and on file.

Following the presentation, Councilors asked questions.

Councilor Dumont asked looking at the projected cost if we did everything in one year would be \$19 million dollars total. Mr. Vadney responded no that would be in addition. That includes some stuff that doesn't need to be done right now, there is still some life left. Councilor Dumont asked with the BOD near capacity limits our ability to develop economically with maybe industrial use or more housing. We could not put another General Linen type business within the City because they are a high usage of water. Mr. Vadney responds that is correct. How would doing these improvements help with the BOD? What would the number be? Mr. Vadney responds, it would bring it down below 80%, threshold. The 80% threshold is significant because the NHDES rules stipulate if you are above 80% capacity they have more authority to meddle in your affairs in approving different things. He will follow up with the Councilors with an email.

Councilor Witham if the NHDES is aware that we are working on this and have spent some money to hire you they are going to understand that we are moving in the right direction. Mr. Vadney stated that anytime you are working in their favor they will understand. He stated that the operational staff at the plant has done a phenomenal and they have an exemplary compliance record in terms of treatment at the facility.

Councilor McCallion always thinks about when updating equipment to look at the latest and greatest out there. Can you share anything in what maybe Exeter is looking at, is it similar to us? Right now the aeration tanks you have now are costing a lot of money to run. There is potentially better ways to mix that. We design all over New England and will definitely take a look at that when designing this one as well with energy efficiency.

Councilor Witham wrote down that very note when operational expenses were talked about. This is perhaps the time to look at smart motor technology and converting lighting to LED to name a few. Going back to the issues he understands that our issue is BOD not necessarily flows and they don't run parallel to each other. Mr. Vadney stated that

because of some of the industrial use in the City we are a high strength sewage compared to some other Communities. So we are okay from a flow stand point, the City does not compared to a BOD stand point.

Councilor McCallion can we identify where our biggest BOD is coming from? Mr. Vadney responded that the City has a rigorous industrial pretreatment user program. Another tool to help would be surcharges; currently you have a surcharge of about \$7.00 per 100lbs of BOD. He feels we have the ability to raise that as we are on the lower spectrum. The City could require pretreatment, raise the BOD surcharge or a combination of the two.

Councilor Witham stated that in the Public Works & Environment Committee they had a pretty extensive conversation on the BOD surcharge and industrial pretreatment. If I recall correctly our numbers were significantly lower than some surrounding communities. We contemplated with that because if we go up too much on BOD surcharges will it scare away the industrial businesses.

Councilor Cameron asked compared to others is our surcharge low? Mr. Vadney responded yes, currently Somersworth is \$7.00 per 100lbs of BOD. Other communities are 30-50lbs per BOD. Industries favor Somersworth due to the low BOD surcharge.

The workshop ended at 6:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kelly Gagne, Deputy City Clerk