



Minutes of City Council Workshop:
Hamilton St. Water Tank Presentation
&
Rocky Hill Road Well Field Discussion
Monday, October 25, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by His Honor, the Mayor, Dana S. Hilliard and, upon roll call, the following Council members were present: Pepin, Dumont, Austin, Michaud, Witham, Gerding, Cameron and Paradis. Members of Wright Pierce Engineering present: Brianna Wentworth and Chris Berg.

Hamilton Street Water Tank Presentation by Wright Pierce Engineers

Brianna Wentworth of Wright Pierce Engineering gave a comprehensive explanation of Somersworth's water system asset management program which focused on the City's distribution mains and water storage tanks. The water storage tank on Hamilton Street, which was built in 1896 and is one of the oldest tanks in the United States of its kind, is in need of repairs or replacement. Ms. Wentworth outlined three strategies the City could take: do nothing, rehabilitate the existing 1.0-million-gallon tank, or replace the tank with a new elevated storage tank. Ms. Wentworth also provided data informing Wright Pierce's recommendations. She went in depth explaining the material, condition, and risk analysis of the City's mains and stated the goal should be to target fixing 1% every year. Ms. Wentworth stated it would be prudent for Somersworth to begin allocating funds in the budget to be able to take advantage of funding opportunities.

Councilor Witham asked if the estimated budget of \$6.3M for work done to the water mains and storage tanks is current or includes projected inflation. Ms. Wentworth replied it is current costs assuming a 3% increase. Witham stated he agrees with the overall plan and asked if the City should begin on the engineering soon. Ms. Wentworth replied it would be a good idea in addition to securing funding in the near future.

Councilor Dumont mentioned he heard that PVC will soon be in high demand and difficult to obtain. He inquired if there were any new materials to utilize in its place. Ms. Wentworth replied that the portion of mains being recommended for repair using PVC is only about 2% and this is due to PVC's ability to handle corrosion issues. Dumont also inquired about the timeline to secure funding. Ms. Wentworth replied that the funding options will not stop existing in the long-term, but rather they recommend getting funds in order, for the items to be addressed in the short-term, sooner than later. Dumont asked if there were any projections indicating that the Salmon Falls River could no longer provide enough water for the demand. Chris Berg, of Wright Pierce, stated that had not been part of the analysis, however, the issue with the tanks is the availability of water storage.

Councilor Pepin stated, in the long term, he would like to see these projects done right. He prefers not to have to dig up newly paved roads to access the mains needing repairs. Councilor Austin inquired about the daily average demand and how the engineers get their projections. Ms. Wentworth replied that the projections are from the average daily needs in the past and the estimated population growth of the City.

Rocky Hill Road Well Field Discussion

Manager Belmore stated that after discussions with staff they recommend to not move forward with bringing a secondary well on line; the assessment and evaluation of the Rocky Hill Road Well Field

by the City's consultant indicated it would cost several millions of dollars in funding to bring the well on line as a secondary major source of potable water. Director Bobinsky and City Engineer Amber Hall explained that Well #1 is currently in use only for providing irrigation water to the Oaks Golf Course. Well #2 is not active, but is capable of a safe yield of approximately 500 gallons per minute. They agree that the opportunity for additional water supply for the City is a great asset, but that capital costs for developing a new water treatment facility at the well site competes directly with the needs to enhance other elements of the City's water distribution system. Director Bobinsky stated their recommendation is to keep Well #1 for irrigation to the Oaks Golf Course, keep Well #2 as a backup, and decommission well #3.

Manager Belmore added that the intermunicipal agreement they have with the City of Dover factored into their recommendation. We can always fall back on Dover for water service if needed. Councilor Witham noted that the Public Works and Environment Committee unanimously supported the recommendations provided today. Councilor Paradis inquired about the cost (\$17k) to decommission Well #3 and asked what it involves. Director Bobinsky replied that decommissioning involves removing any pumps, piping, and filling with some sort of cement.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Hilliard adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jonathan Slaven, City Clerk