

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE REPORT, JULY 12, 2018

The Committee was called to order by Chairman Lindsay at 9:30 a.m. The agenda was revised to move the presentation and discussion of the East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (ECR) to the front of the agenda. Additionally, a matter regarding an “unsightly tree” on the corner of Australian Avenue and North County Road was added to the agenda under “Other.”

EAST CENTRAL REGIONAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY (ECR)

Eric Brown, P.E., Assistant Director of Public Works, made the presentation on the ECR Facility. The ECR (sewage plant) is located at Haverhill Road and Jog Road in West Palm Beach, and has been in operation since the late 1970’s. It handles our sewage from Palm Beach. The plant has a 70 million gallon capacity per day, of which Palm Beach is allocated an 8.57% share, equal to a 6 million gallon capacity per day. Palm Beach’s capital cost allocation is based on our 8.57% capacity share. In addition, the Town pays approximately 5% of the operating costs which is based on the volume of flow of Town’s effluent to the ECR facility.

Eric provided a comprehensive overview of the 100-acre site and plant operations. In summary, raw sewage is piped to the plant and sent through a number of treatment basins which: (1) filter solids from liquids; (2) aerate effluent which supports bacterial growth and decomposition; and (3) clarify solids from liquids. Half of the liquids are treated in a high level disinfection chamber and half goes into the earth. Treated reclaimed waste water is piped by Palm Beach County to the FPL regional power plant twenty (20) miles away where it is used in cooling towers at the power facility. The remaining solids are processed and sent to the Solid Waste Authority.

Matthew Shultz, Brown & Caldwell, made an in depth presentation on the new Bio-solids Facility, a \$100 million bonded capital improvement project, which is slated for completion next month. The purpose of the facility is to provide a digestive process using heat over time to break down the solids, releasing methane gas. The processed solids are then used as fertilizer.

Ms. Lindsay asked if the methane gas could be utilized. Mr. Schultz said the quality and amount would need to be studied once the plant is operational to determine usefulness. If useful, a gas pipeline would need to be built. No action will be taken until a full study is completed, which looks at production and quality of gas.

UPDATE ON ISSUES WITH THE ECR AND THE NEW BIO-SOLIDS PROJECT

1. The project has used \$4 million of the \$5.5 million construction contingency, leaving \$1.5 million available for future expenditures. There were about \$4 million worth of change orders with this project due to “unforeseen circumstances” including: (1) major pipe was leaking, which had to be taken off line and repaired, which resulted in a \$1.5 million change order; (2) could not connect existing settlement basins because they had ten times (10x) the amount of expected residual solids, due to failure to clean and properly maintain over many years costing an overrun of \$1.6 million. Of course this means that we could be billed additional

dollars for future over runs that exceed the \$1.5 million contingency available in proportion to our share of the budget required.

2. The ECR was originally built so that a single basin could be taken off line and cleaned. Because of poor operational oversight and neglected capital improvements over the years, a new basin is being constructed so that older basins can be taken off line and cleaned. It takes one (1) year to clean a basin. It will take three (3) years to completely rehabilitate the aeration basins.
3. FDEP has cited the ECR numerous times for exceeding the permit criteria for the treated water.
4. Governance - The ECR Operations BOARD has oversight on spending, but WPB is responsible for staffing and operations. The ECR BOARD has a representative from each user of the facility: Palm Beach, Lake Worth, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, and Palm Beach County. The voting protocol for the member entities requires a majority of entities for approval (and representing more than 50% of the capacity). Eric Brown has represented us for the last 2 years. Over the years the Board has approved capital projects which were either not done at all or not completed.
5. The Town's concerns are financial, operational, and governance related: inadequate staffing, failure to provide oversight/management and failure to report performance and maintenance failures to the BOARD. Palm Beach wants performance standards upheld.
6. Ms. Zeidman raised concern about the new facility, and continued staffing inadequacy as linked to not meeting performance standards. Mr. Brazil stated we cannot go on line without staff. Plan B is to hire contract employees.
7. The capital cost contribution for the FY2019 projects is \$7.7 million, which is 2% of \$385 million (the plant is valued at \$285 million, plus the \$100 million capital Bio-Solids Project). Our operational costs have been increasing, but we anticipate a steady annual 2% increase going forward.
8. Ms. Lindsay asked if the Mayor or Town Council could assist in getting the proper attention from those responsible in WPB. Mr. Brazil stated that the Board is placing emphasis on budgeting, management oversight and staffing.

TRUCK TRAFFIC

Rather than make new ordinances, staff identified our current permit process as the most accessible and fool-proof means to provide information on roadway width to construction companies. Most of the large truck traffic is associated with construction, which is within our control to monitor and enforce.

Trucks in Class 6-13 and or trucks over forty-two feet (42 ft.) in length are the target group, which cannot make the turn onto narrow streets. While we cannot capture all large trucks, providing information on our roadways will go the distance to prevent damage to personal property. Construction managers will be given a packet of information during the permit process. Ms. Lindsay suggested a map be included with narrow streets outlined in red. In addition, information will be posted on the Town's website. Currently two (2) signs are posted south of Wells Road on Bradley Place and County Roads. The Public Works Department will work with the Police Department and Code Enforcement to resolve enforcement issues.

Ms. Lindsay suggested that Public Works meet with contractors who live here to ascertain what might be useful. Ms. Lindsay also brought to the attention of Town staff that car carriers are parking overnight on our residential streets. This is an enforcement issue; residents should call the Police Department. Car carriers are not permitted to park on Town streets.

ONGOING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

There are ten (10) Projects:

Lake Trail, Annie's Dock, E-1, E-2 & G-1 Lift Stations, D-4 Pump Station, Mast Arms at Clarke Avenue and Bradley Place, Mid-Town Bathroom Project, D-14 Storm Water Pump Station Rehabilitation, Royal Palm Way Smart Irrigation System, Phipps Ocean Park Bathroom Project, A-41 Sanitary Pump Station Improvements (inside a bldg. at the Par 3).

Issues:

1. The E-1 and E-2 Lift Stations will require 5 weeks of road closures consecutively on North Lake Way will be done in August and September.
2. Mast Arms for Clarke Avenue and Bradley Place- there is only one company in the state making mast arms and our mast arms will not be ready until 12/21/2018. Town staff's plan is to prepare the ground for the mast arm poles before season and then erect the mast arms post season, in May, 2019.
3. The A-41 Sanitary Sewer Pump Station will not be complete before season, however the work is contained within a building at the Par 3 and will not impact traffic.
4. The G-1 Lift Station may not be completed before season, however the work is contained within the Pine Walk Transfer Station at the Breakers, and will not impact traffic or residents.

LAKE TRAIL UPDATE

There were several issues with Lake Trail prior to rehabilitation during summer of 2017:

1. Numerous poor asphalt conditions.
2. Reflective cracking on the northern trail due to concrete underpinning.
3. Multiple overlays which produced drop-offs, stair steps.
4. Private property landscaping impinging on parts of Lake Trail, resulting in various widths and undesirable drop offs. In an effort to consider cost implications, it was decided to limit the scope of work to the main trail, and to not remove previous milling. To do so would have greatly increased the cost. Because of cost savings, seventeen (17) access trails (from North Lake Way to the Trail) were included in the rehabilitation this summer. Several side by side photos depicting before and after conditions were reviewed.
5. Ms. Lindsay and Ms. Zeidman asked questions about various aspects of Lake Trail, the foremost was evident cracking of the new asphalt within a short time after completion, particularly apparent on the northern section of the trail. The area where cracking is most evident is due to the existing concrete foundation in the northern section of the trail. The concrete had been overlaid with asphalt in previous years. The concrete provides a more stable foundation, but when overlaid with asphalt reflective cracks happen quickly. The solution to eliminate the cracks is to remove the concrete. This would be costly and would also diminish the quality of the trail.

SEWER PROJECT UPDATE

Presented by Jason Debrincat, P.E., Senior Project Engineer, Town of Palm Beach

The City of West Palm Beach (WPB) performed a condition assessment of the shared force-main between WPB and the Town of Palm Beach, which resulted in an immediate need of repair. This pipe takes effluent from our Town to the East Central Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (ECR). In 1972 we entered into an agreement with WPB to pay for 22.6% of the cost to build the pipeline. Our cost to rehabilitate the joint force-main was \$3.4 million in 2016. The total estimated cost of the project was \$15 million, however there is a \$1.2 million overrun, of which our share is \$285,000. We have not provided payment of the \$285,000 as of yet pending litigation; the City of West Palm Beach is in agreement.

In addition, there is an "Aerial Force-main Crossing Pipe" that needs rehabilitation. The Town of Palm Beach's cost is "estimated" to be \$904,000. Our cost share is 22.6%. We are currently awaiting the bids and will cover the cost from the ACIP funds.

THE TREE

The tree on Australian Avenue and County Road, fronting Town Hall will be replaced by a similar quality tree as those in other areas of Town Square.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbie Lindsay and Maggie Zeidman