

City of Newburyport, Massachusetts
Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements Project

Public Meeting Summary with Questions & Responses

A public meeting to discuss the progress of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Improvements project was held on the evening of Tuesday June 22, 2010 in the James Steam Mill Building. Below is a summary of many of the statements made, questions received and responses given at this public meeting. This summary is not intended as a record of the meeting, but rather a collection of information to inform the reader of discussion points.

Attendees:

- City Staff: Mayor Donna Holaday, Alison Heartquist (Councilor Ward 1), Anthony Furnari (Interim Director of Public Services), Jon-Eric White (City Engineer), Jamie Tuccolo (Collection Systems Manager), Joe Dugan (Chief WWTF Operator), Robert Bradbury (Assistant WWTF Operator), Sewer Commissioners- David Hanlon (Chairman), Kate Murray and Bob Cook
- M. Pieter Hartford, the Owner's Project Manager (OPM)
- Weston & Sampson (Engineer): Kent Nichols, Laurie Toscano, Corey Repucci and Paul MacNevin (Field Resident Representative for the Construction)
- Waterline Industries (Contractor for Contract 1): John Mack
- Members of the Public

Chairman Hanlon made the above introductions and outlined that tonight's presentation would focus on the progress and anticipated schedule of construction and explained that many of the details of the project have been previously highlighted in other public meetings and hearings through the local approval process.

Pieter Hartford presented the first several slides of the Power Point presentation, which outlined the project packaging and discussed construction Contract 1 work completed to date and anticipated schedule. Some of the specific items discussed are as follows:

- In January 2010, the City signed a construction contract with Waterline Industries Corporation. Mobilization, site investigation, confinement of the construction staging area with fences and access road relocation items have all taken place in the period of then until now.

Q. A couple of the area residents are disappointed with the location of the field trailers on the #115 Water St. site. Can the trailers be moved to restore the river views from Lime Street? There appears to be space on-site?

R. The main considerations for trailer location include; ease of construction, space for construction parking and safety for the operation of heavy equipment. It is important to keep construction activity separate from the public. Chairman Hanlon requested that the project team to look into this issue and communicate the results to the interested residents.

- The Sewer Commission has previously voted to change the proposed roof color from green to gray, based on input from the Newburyport Historical Committee, reaffirmed by the Planning Board.

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- The project underwent a Chapter 91 License approval process, which included the addition of a granite marker to denote the walking path and a slight re-aligning of the walking path termination point to allow for an easier rail trail connection in the future (by others)
- The Contractor has already encountered a changed condition which required a shift of the new Operations, Control & Laboratory (OCL) Building toward the existing brick building on #115 Water Street. During excavation and disposal of contaminated material in preparation for construction of the OCL Building foundation, a granite capped stone wall was encountered. The location of the below grade stone wall interfered with the outermost row of piles. As a result, the building has been shifted 15-feet to the west to avoid this conflict.
- Current work on-site includes the following:
 - Re-pointing of existing buildings & started re-roofing.
 - Foundation for the Aeration Blower Building (drilled piles).
 - Removal & disposal of 800 tons of contaminated soil.
 - Temporary disinfection system installation and decommissioning of chlorine gas system.
 - Change over of existing electrical system.
- Mitigation of construction impacts required contractor to...
 - Manage, control and provide sediment capture for stormwater on the site.
 - Retain services of a Licensed Site Professional (ENPRO) – spray site, cover piles.
 - Manage noise– neighborhood has been very understanding.
 - Follow traffic management plan – trucks are following designated route.

Kent Nichols then presented the last several slides of the Power Point presentation, which outlined the continuing design of Contract 2 and anticipated schedule. Some of the specific items discussed are as follows:

- Contract 2 phasing was required so that we have an alternate location to move WWTF operations staff to (OCL Building), to keep the WWTF running and to take advantage of funding.
- The most significant component of Contract 2 will be re-construction of the existing Operations Building. The new building will be re-configured to move the sloped roof portion of the building closer to the Water Street fence line to improve aesthetics.
- The building re-configuration will also allow us to move the most odorous function (sludge dewatering and trucking) further from the adjacent neighborhood, towards the river.
- Headworks (where the raw sewage enters the WWTF) improvements will also be accomplished under Contract 2.
- Anticipated bid of Contract 2 construction is end of 2010. Depending on the bid process, we may or may not have two contractors on-site simultaneously.
- General site improvements including fence replacement will occur toward the end of Contract 2 construction, either as part of the contract or as part of the operations budgeted improvements.
- Contract 2 is anticipated to have an 18-month construction period, some of which will overlap with the final stages of Contract 1.
- We have established a project web-site to keep those interested in the project informed. It can be accessed directly from the City's home page under 'Associated Links'.

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- The public should be aware that there are always people onsite when construction is happening- generally either Paul MacNevin and/or Corey Repucci. The Weston & Sampson field trailer is to the right as you are facing the river.
- General questions about the project should be forwarded to Pieter Hartford, whose contact information is available on the project web-site.
- Paul MacNevin cautioned that if resident do want to come on-site, please do not walk around the construction unless you are with a field representative.

Concluding the presentation, the floor was opened to questions and comments.

Q. Odors from the #115 Water Street site have been bad the last several days. With Enpro on-site, is there any concern for neighbors about air quality from the hazardous materials?

R. The hazardous materials on-site are from an old oil storage depot foundation system, which was located several feet beneath the ground. This type of hazardous material does not blow around, even when excavated. The surface soil material is not contaminated and is therefore being stockpiled on-site. There has been some dust from vehicles on the access road to the yacht club. All construction dust does still need to be controlled. Typically we don't spray construction dust with water – we use calcium chloride. Regardless, the hazardous material excavation and removal is anticipated to be completed this week.

Q. With the required OCL Building shift (toward the downtown side of the parcel), will there be additional impacts with site lines down lime Street?

R. The 15-foot building shift will still allow the OCL Building to be located behind the existing homes (#117 and #119 Water Street) and therefore the shift is not expected to negatively impact the site or the site lines significantly.

Q. A resident of one of the row houses on Water Street in front of the Secondary Clarifiers (#157 Water Street site) asked what the large empty green space next to the tanks is for?

R. The empty space is reserved for the possible future need to add a third secondary clarifier tank, if future flows or loads require. Based on the analysis in our WWTF Evaluation report (which included incorporation of build-out data from the City's Master Plan), this third tank is not currently needed to treat the flows and loads based on the current and anticipated future NPDES permit requirements. However, the state and federal government control the permit requirements and every change cannot be predicted.

Q. What percentage of capacity is the current WWTF flow?

R. Robert Bradbury- currently see 2.6 mgd – 2.7 mgd on an average daily flow basis and approximately 2.9 mgd on a 12-month rolling average. So we are at approximately 80% of our 3.4 mgd average daily flow capacity.

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Q. Did we include a hotel in flow projections?

R. Flow projections included change in uses that are part of the City's Master Plan. The Sewer Department also has an Inflow and Infiltration removal program to remove extraneous flows from the system, which also helps to create capacity.

Q. Any discussions on what will come of the existing brick building on #115 Water Street?

R. Future use of this building is up to City Council and/or the Mayor. It is being used for construction staging for the next couple of years.

Q. Is there any development/progress on previous discussion of the site fencing?

R. Discussions continued through the local permitting process and will continue.

- Police concerns over security.
- Aesthetics.
- Structural issues with wind/water forces.
- Direct abutters to the WWTF have varying types of existing fence, so it is a sensitive issue that needs to be dealt with on an individual basis.
- The issue is still on the radar screen that will be resolved by the end of Contract 2.
- During construction, if you have a fence repair issue, let Pieter, Joe or Brad know.

We know that this process is frustrating – Thank you for your patience, understanding and participation! The City is working to give you a better plant.

C. One resident wanted to thank the City for being transparent through this project and keeping the residents informed and involved.

The formal meeting adjourned with project representatives available to answer one on one questions.

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