

➤ **Article 4B: Capital – Wastewater Facilities Assessment**

9/14/16

Jonathan Beder, DPW Director, presented Article 4B. \$200,000 will fund a study to evaluate the current conditions at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the 5 municipal lift stations which include Holmes Point, Water Street, Hedge Road, Industrial Park, and Long Pond. These facilities are covered under the current operation and maintenance agreement with Veolia North America which expires on June 30, 2021. The condition assessment is critical as it will delineate any item needing to be addressed. Veolia is required to transition the plant and all the stations back over to the town in good working order and in compliance with all legal requirements, consistent with good industry practice. The proposed assessment will assist the town in determining the current condition and value of the infrastructure. The cost to perform this work is \$174,470 and is expected to take approximately 5 months to complete. The capital request is for \$200,000 should any more in-depth investigations be required.

Questions:

- This is for the study only? What is the scope? Did you receive bids already? (C Merrill) Yes, an assessment study of everything within the plant and stations. We looked at 2 companies and the bid we chose is in the meeting packet which outlines the entire scope involved.
- The bid mentions Gary & Chad, their titles should be included so we know who they are. It says report will be provided to the town. Who will it be provided to and will it be available electronically? (S Sheridan) I agree titles should be included. The report will go to me directly. It may need to go down the legal avenue so may not be shared publicly right away. We will have to wait and see.
- What if the equipment is not in the condition it should be? (H Helm) We will receive the assessment and can then have a discussion on Veolia about replacing or upgrading equipment, we will know the exact values and we can document a specific plan.
- We are essentially auditing the entity we are having a legal suite with? (M Lincoln) We will receive the assessment, provide them with the information and hold them to that line in our agreement.
- How often will this have to be done moving forward towards 2021? (C Merrill) I think this assessment will get us through the remainder of the contract.
- If Veolia is responsible for returning the plant to us and certifying that it is in a certain condition then why wouldn't they pay for this assessment? (J Moody) They have their own engineer and their own interpretation. Given the current situation, I urge the committee to support this article, it is sensitive in nature and this assessment is something we need to do.
- Has this company attested in court to similar issues in the past? (C Merrill) Yes, they are very reputable and have experience doing that.
- Has Veolia accepted this company to come into their space? (S Sheridan) Not yet but this happens at all of their plants. We will have that conversation once Town Meeting approves the funding.

**Patrick O'Brien made a motion to recommend Article 4B to Town Meeting. Harry Helm, second.**

Comment: We are essentially hiring our own expert witness. (M Lincoln)

**The motion carries unanimously (14-0-0).**