

Waste Water Committee Meeting 11/11/20

Present

James Wright
Brad Rebillard
Leo Blackman
John Stewart
Stacy Mantel

RECEIVED
NOV 20 2020
Amenia Town Clerk

Absent

Nathan Roy

James Wright was voted in as Chair

Brad inquired if minutes were necessary if Zoom meeting is recorded.
Jim believed Town requires them but will inquire. Meeting was then recorded.

Jim asked if everyone has town of Amenia email. They will be provided or already have been provided to the Chair. John has not yet received one. All email communication regarding the WW committee should take place using the town's addresses.

Jim and Leo discussed Tighe and Bond as being the preferred firm to hire for a feasibility study as they are familiar with Amenia geologically and politically.

Jim reported having phoned Sup. Perotti to ask that she contact Silo Ridge principals to inquire about land owned by the company. Erin Moore, the engineer for Tighe and Bond, has stated that this property was vetted in 2012 for the last study and is a great spot for wastewater treatment. There was a question about why Silo wanted the property. What was their intended use for it? Would they would donate or sell the parcel to the Town at a discount?

Leo asked if Silo bought it for the Town to use as the site for a wastewater treatment facility, Brad stated it may have been the case.

Jim feels there is a good shot of getting the process going if that site can be secured. He will speak to Sup. Perotti about this.

Bridgett Barclay was involved last time Amenia explored installing a ww treatment system. She will review her notes and forward any grant opportunities.

<https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/Water-Wastewater/Water-and-Wastewater-Authority.htm>

Folks discussed the economy in light of COVID and that it may be difficult to get grants but there still may be opportunities.

Leo said if Biden launches infrastructure projects we would have a better chance of securing funding if a feasibility study were completed.

Brad inquired about the last feasibility study and wanted to know if it has a “shelf life.”

Jim: More would need to be done. A central question is where in Amenia should sewers be installed? Residents on Broadway opposed the last proposal because of the amount they would be billed. Need to canvas business owners and residents to assess interest. No longer need to reach a percentage of residents in order to get a system approved.

Leo briefly discussed the master plan and the phased approach that T & B has introduced to Millerton.

Stacy inquired if by residents it is meant property owners. Yes

Leo recalls that in Millerton the estimated yearly cost to property owners would be \$900 a year for households and \$1200 a year for businesses.

In order to enlist support for the introduction of ww treatment systems Millerton and Pine Plains business owners were asked: “ Can you afford that the town not put in a septic system?”

Suggested reaching out to Amenia businesses and Lions Club. Jim contacted Linda Gregory and Rocky Ducillo and hopes to be able to talk with each soon. Leo spoke to John Stephanopoulos of Four Brothers who will discuss with his partners whether they are in favor of hooking up to a wastewater treatment system.

Grant money may be more available if the development of Affordable Housing in the town is linked to the need to build a wastewater system

Leo suggested that after the feasibility study is done, the Town will be in a better position to get grant money because the study is an example of Town’s seriousness.

The challenge is how to raise 15K to hire T & B.
Tap rich folks in Smithfield Valley? Sup Perotti is very supportive of this approach.
Leo advocated talking to business leaders in the downtown. Four Brothers? 2 banks?
Page’s?

Jim asked Brad who owns the buildings along 343 with apartments above them.
Brad said Four Brothers

Leo mentioned that once Silo Ridge reaches a certain number of issued c of o's, 50K would be deposited by them in the Town's account. With that amount anticipated to be available soon, couldn't Sup Perotti be asked about taking money from reserve fund to get T&B going? Once the Silo R \$\$ is available, it can be used to replenish the reserve fund. Stacy thinks this a great approach.

Jim asked Brad if he knows Silo people. Brad will reach out to folks he knows there.

Brad said he will talk to some people and do it delicately.

Jim suggested that we don't go behind Supervisor Perotti's back and he will keep in touch with her.

Leo thinks the Committee should bring the issue to the full Board. Stacy and Brad support this.

Jim offered to make pitch to the Board, especially in light of the probability that the new members may not be aware of the impact a sewer system could have on Amenia. Explore low interest loans to fund the feasibility study.

Jim and Leo briefly explained the WW system that is being contemplated.

Jim mentioned that the growth in Hillsdale since their WW treatment was installed has been explosive. Leo said that was a good bit of history to bring to Board

Jim and Leo agreed to prepare a presentation of the project to the Board that would explain the need for upfront funds to the Board.

Darlene Riemer has opted out of joining the committee, but may offer support at the Town Board meeting.

Brad will find out what the new buyers plan to do with the former Monte's property. There appears to be growing interest in establishing new businesses in Amenia. Jim suggests going door to door to talk to the business owners.

Brad agrees that John Stephanopoulos is key to laying the groundwork for support. He will talk to his contacts at Silo Ridge to explore the organization's interest in the town's growth. Growth is only possible with a wastewater system.

How often should we meet? Brad suggests an email roundup once more information has been gathered.

