

COAKLEY UPDATES FROM BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETINGS

➤ Monday 05.15.2017

The Town Administrator drafted a letter to Senator Morse from the Greenland Board of Selectmen and the Portsmouth City Council requesting funding. Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth Water Department, told the Town Administrator that it is under review by the City's Legal Department. The Town Administrator recently received a draft from Underwood Engineers that would be included with the packet to Senator Morse. The information explains the scope of the water main extension. As currently proposed, it would go from the top of Breakfast Hill Road to the bottom, and all the neighborhoods along the way. Not included is the connection on private properties. The Board can discuss trying to have it included within the scope, each resident would pay for their own water connection, or the Town would go after the responsible party for the difference (approximately \$11,000 per house plus the connection fee of \$1,300). It was noted that these are very preliminary figures.

P. Sanderson clarified that at the last meeting with the City of Portsmouth, all parties agreed to work together with Underwood Engineering to arrive at a preliminary cost estimate as well as draft a letter to Senator Morse. The Town Administrator, B. Goetz and several others have been working with Underwood Engineers to develop a scenario of the project. The project would consist of connecting into the existing Portsmouth water system at the end of Breakfast Hill Road, running it down Breakfast Hill Road and extending into all neighborhoods along the way. At the end of Breakfast Hill Road, it would turn left and head back to the Portsmouth City line. This would create a loop into the existing Portsmouth system. The Town Administrator added that the letter will be sent to Senator Morse because funding is being requested through the MTBE Trust that was a result of the Exxon lawsuit. P. Sanderson continued that Underwood Engineering was selected because Portsmouth has a great deal of experience with them and last year they did a very thorough survey of the road conditions in Greenland. It should be less expensive because they have much of the data already in-house. It was noted again that this is a very early conceptual plan.

The Town Administrator stated they would like to get the letter to Senator Morse by the end of the month. She asked the Board for any changes they would like to see in the Underwood letter or the cover letter to Senator Morse.

P. Sanderson stated there has been no final determination about the sharing of costs between Portsmouth and Greenland. There has been no determination at the State level regarding the money from the MTBE funds through a grant, loan or any other financing alternative. The Town Administrator added that the Portsmouth Herald was inaccurate when it stated that Portsmouth and Greenland have agreed to share the costs—that has not occurred. Portsmouth and Greenland have agreed to share Underwood Engineering's costs.

In response to a question from Dennis Malloy, Van Etten Drive, P. Sanderson stated that the project estimate from Underwood Engineering was \$13.5 million; however, it could go as high as \$16.5 million. That does not include any costs that may be required inside the Portsmouth water system regarding pressure, etc. It also doesn't include the connection from the main into a residence. Underwood Engineering has indicated that the cost of making that connection could vary between \$6,000 and \$11,000. Additional items were received from Portsmouth indicating they normally charge a fee for system improvement of \$1,300 per connection. P. Sanderson stated that is not the final figure for what

will be charged in those circumstances. Residents should be aware that the cost could be between \$7,500 and \$13,000 to connect to a municipal water system.

J. Rolston asked if residents would be required to connect to a municipal water system. P. Sanderson stated there is nothing in the Ordinance at this time to address that question. He continued that Town approval would be needed for that as part of the project review. The Town Administrator added the Board could make that a requirement to prevent migration of contaminants. P. Sanderson stated it has not been discussed by the Planning Board or brought before the residents.

The cover letter to Senator Morse that would be submitted with the Underwood Engineering documentation was reviewed. Chair Morgan questioned if it should be mentioned that Greenland had nothing to do with dumping into the Coakley Landfill. The Town Administrator responded it's in the letter but will clarify it further by adding "The Town of Greenland did not utilize the Coakley Landfill in any way". Also added to Paragraph 3: "To date, there are ongoing tests by being performed by DES to determine if a correlation exists linking the cancer cluster to the landfill site. However, residential wells in that area of Greenland show low levels of PFC's and the surface waters in that area tested positive for high levels of PFC's." P. Sanderson noted that Portsmouth is not a franchisee of the water system, but the owner/operator.

D. Malloy stated that Chair Morgan's points were excellent. He was not a part of the Greenland Safe Water action, but on the State level sponsoring bills. He suggested that the Town Attorney read the cover letter after it's reviewed by the City of Portsmouth's Legal Department to make the intent clear there is no connection between a cancer cluster. This would protect the Town and the efforts of the Board of Selectmen as well as making sure they continue to move forward.

The Town Administrator will send the revisions to the City of Portsmouth's Legal Department. P. Sanderson pointed out that the Town Attorney may have a conflict of interest and not able to review the letter. Chair Morgan stated that in lieu of an additional legal review, P. Sanderson and the Town Administrator were aware of the situation.

P. Sanderson stated for the record that this is not part of the State budget consideration. The State has a fund of money that it has achieved as a result of litigation of oil companies and the MTBE additive, and relief is being sought from that fund. It is not part of the ordinary State budget.

C. Hussey commented that if this moves forward, wells would be shut down even for irrigation. P. Sanderson noted that this has not been considered in any way. Hydrogeology would be needed to determine the draw down impact. Shutting down wells may be necessary closer to the Coakley Landfill than locations further away. It is an important issue, but there aren't any answers yet.

➤ Monday 05.01.2017

The Town Administrator updated the Board on the recent meeting with the City of Portsmouth and Underwood Engineering. The meeting was a continuation from the prior week with the City of Portsmouth. Brian Goetz, City of Portsmouth, and Keith Pratt, Underwood Engineers, were in attendance as was Chair Morgan. It was initially thought it would be a small engineering pre-package with documentation to be included with a letter from the Town to the legislative body and Senator Morse. After discussion, it was decided that Greenland will be doing the initial draft of the letter. It will be given to B. Goetz for review, and then back to Greenland for final review. Underwood Engineering

will do the work plan showing the water line layout, the service area, and the static pressure grade line in a plan view.

The scope will be approximately \$3,000 and the request will include funding for the next level of the engineering evaluation. The scope will address the water quality, pressure, fire flow, and constructability. They will provide a brief technical memorandum recapping the work in an executive summary format (when it's presented for review for the funds, a few paragraphs will be included that summarize the project). The \$3,000 cost will be split between Greenland and Portsmouth. It should be ready within two weeks and then will be sent to Senator Morse. Funding for the Town's portion will be from the warrant article for Professional Fees passed at the March Town Meeting.

Chair Morgan noted it's been difficult to find an environmental attorney who doesn't have a conflict of interest with any of the involved parties. Several names were given to the Town Administrator, and a Request for Proposals has been sent out. The Town Administrator noted that the list of responsible parties is very long.

➤ Monday 04.17.2017

Chair Morgan, the Town Administrator and P. Sanderson had another productive on Friday, April 14, 2017 with the City of Portsmouth, Senator Martha Fuller-Clark, and Rep. Messmer. The Town Administrator updated that Portsmouth provided a spreadsheet with approximate numbers to ballpark doing the emergency section, half of the section or the project in its entirety. There will be a meeting with Underwood Engineers, the City of Portsmouth and the Town Administrator this week. A letter will be drafted that will be signed by the Mayor of Portsmouth and the Greenland Board of Selectmen requesting the State fund the entire project through MTBE money based on an SRF reimbursement. It will be requested that the State contribute 75% of the project; 12.5% (each) would come from Greenland and Portsmouth. They are trying to structure it as an SRF program; in the past, payments have started one year after substantial completion. Completion is expected to take 18 to 24 months; payment would start three years after that. A five year repayment plan could be requested. Payments could be done through the Town's Operating Budget, with seven or eight annual payments, as water line expansion.

P. Sanderson added that they looked at going from Post Road serving residents along the Breakfast Hill Road corridor, including the side neighborhoods, continuing to Rte. 1 and looping to the Portsmouth existing facility (going through Rye to loop up). It would improve the water pressure for the entire line. P. Sanderson reiterated this is in the conceptual stages; they were trying to get a ballpark based on serving everyone on that corridor and looping back. He continued that they also asked, based on Senator Morse's comments about roadways being torn up for multiple purposes, about the cost to have gas and sewer lines installed at the same time even if they're not connected to an infrastructure.

The Town Administrator noted that the money is available now. They want to be one of the first communities in line to receive funding. Underwood Engineers is going to provide the back up for the letter from Portsmouth and Greenland; the plan is to have it submitted within two weeks. P. Sanderson added that Underwood was the good choice to provide the technical backup because they have done a great deal of work for Portsmouth on their water and sewer engineering, and they also completed a comprehensive study of Greenland's roads recently. That should reduce the time for a new engineer to become familiar with the basic information and data.

This will be fast-tracked over the next few weeks, hoping to get in line for the funds. Chair Morgan and the Town Administrator felt huge progress was being made. Again, it was stressed this phase was only conceptual and nothing was set in stone.

The Town Administrator has spoken to Rath, Young and Pignatelli regarding the RFP for legal assistance. They are checking for any possible conflicts of interest; there may be some that can be resolved and waived.

P. Sanderson stated that the good news is that the conversation they wanted to have is occurring. There is mutual interest and a way to resolve the issue. He added that there will also be challenges to work through and it will be a job for the Planning Board.