

Sewer District Report

On October 27, at a Special Meeting of the taxpayers of the Woodridge Lake Sewer District (WLS D), the taxpayers considered and voted to approve the recommendations of the WLS D Board and its Planning Committee to spend \$983,000 on two major capital projects. The taxpayers also approved the WLS D's plan to finance this expenditure through a 20-year loan at 2% from the Connecticut Clean Water Fund. This loan will cost the WLS D \$60,000 annually, approximately 7% of the WLS D's current annual budget, and an increase of 7% to each WLS D taxpayer's sewer taxes. The loan had been pre-approved by the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP), subject to taxpayer approval.

The taxpayers also approved the re-appropriation of \$176,000 from last year's budget to this year for work to be performed on the WLS D's Facilities Plan. This Plan will detail necessary and required improvements to our sewer system. DEEP is funding 55% of the cost of the Facilities Plan.

Ken Green, Chairman of the WLS D's Planning Committee in his presentation explained the need for both major capital projects. Representatives of our engineering consultants Woodard & Curran (W&C) and our environmental Counsel, Shipman & Goodwin were present and answered questions.

The WLS D has been operating since 1989 under a Consent Order with the State, which among other things limits us to treating and disposing of 100,000 gallons of wastewater a day. There are now 677 connections to our system. W&C has calculated that we are now treating 105,000 gallons of wastewater a day (50,000 gallons of sanitary flow and 55,000 gallons of water infiltrating or flowing into our system). On days of heavy rain we have experienced spikes of over 300,000 gallons per day. W&C, the Board and the Planning Committee have also calculated that there can be as many as 200 potential additional connections to our system.

Since we are in an AA watershed area, the highest in CT, it is unlikely that DEEP will approve an increase in the 100,000 gallons per day limit. Therefore we must reduce the amount of Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) of water into our sewer system. This is critical. Whether ultimately we upgrade our facilities or build a pipeline to transport our wastewater to Torrington

for treatment, these two options are on the table with DEEP. Naturally, we want the least costly and environmentally sound option.

The first of the two major projects costing \$529,000 is to plug the leaks in our collection system; the network of 16 miles of sewer pipes which transport wastewater to our treatment plant. We will continue performing flow isolation and TV inspections to determine the source of leaks into the system this Spring. By relining pipes, fixing joints and cracks and fixing manholes, we hope to remove in excess of 20,000 gallons a day of I/I from our sewer system. We will be focusing on areas where we can remove the most I/I at the lowest cost.

The second major project is the installation of a monitoring, control and data collection system at our 8 pumping stations and at the treatment plant at a cost of \$454,000. This system will continuously monitor the flow in each sub-area of the collection system and improve the reliability of pump station communication, monitoring and alarming to reduce the potential for backups and overflows. Whether we upgrade our treatment plant or send our wastewater to Torrington, it will be important to know the amount of wastewater to be treated. This system will help us to identify and minimize I/I.

Ken Green also reported on the testing of our groundwater disposal fields. Wastewater is currently pumped from the collection system to our treatment plant, and after treatment it is discharged into the ground through our disposal fields. Unless our disposal fields are shown to be capable of absorbing our wastewater in the volumes we collect and treat, DEEP will not let us continue their use. Prior to testing the disposal fields we entered into a long negotiation with DEEP over the technical standards to be used in evaluating the capabilities of the fields.

We finally ran the disposal fields tests this Spring and results were encouraging, showing that our fields can conservatively absorb at least 101,000 gallons of wastewater a day. We expect DEEP to question and challenge these results, but we believe we have a strong scientific basis for our conclusions. Once we have completed the cost evaluation of our two alternatives (upgraded plant and Torrington) we will present our disposal fields results to DEEP. This will likely occur early next year.

The reports transmitted to DEEP to date, have been posted on the WLSD's website (<http://wlsd-goshen.org>) and click on Outside Professional Reports) for those who want more information about both of our major capital projects and the development of our Facilities Plan.

Board Election Results

The Board is pleased to announce that Jim Mersfelder and Thomas McKiernan have been re-elected to the Board for the term beginning January 1, 2013 and ending December 31, 2014.



Sue Doyle, GRI
Broker Associate

Litchfield Hills
Sotheby's International Realty
3BB South St., Box 275
Litchfield, CT 06759
t 860.567.0806 h 860.567.4776
f 860.567.2779 c 860.307.7335
sue.doyle@sothebysrealty.com
LitchfieldHillsSIR.com
Each Office Is Independently Owned And Operated

BMW • MERCEDES BENZ • PORSCHE • AUDI • VOLKSWAGON
ALL JAPANESE CARS

Bennett Motor Werks

Import Car Specialist
State certified emission testing and repair station

OPEN 7:30 TO 5:00 MON-FRI, 7:30 TO 1:00 SAT

ROUTE 202, 108 TORRINGTON ROAD
LITCHFIELD, CT 06759
(860) 567-9290
FAX: (860) 567-5737

PAUL J. BENNETT

Northern *Lights*

Fine Home Services

Personalized service for all your home care needs

Property Management

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Power Washing
- Deck Refinishing
- Snow Plowing

SPIKE MAGYAR
GOSHEN, CT

FREE ESTIMATES
FULLY INSURED

(860)-618-5767/ (860)-248-0908

Now accepting credit card payments