

Retsof Sewer Informational Meeting  
York Town Hall  
April 18, 2024  
5:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald Deming, Councilmembers Amos Smith, Jason Swede, Lynn Parnell, Highway Supt. George Worden, Eric Wies, CPL Engineering.

Attendees: Susan Waterman, Val Vattimo, Sherry Nourse, Dora Clancy, Mitch Clancy, Chris Pascuzzo, Bill Schuman, Barb Harclerod, Cinda Costa, Josh Costa, Tammy Pangrazio Sheila Gargan, Bill Gargan, Jeffrey Maggio, James Mustari, Kim Davy, Nancy Newcomb, Penny Dunn, Jamie Cuccinotta, Tyler Flynn and Catherine Flynn.

CPL Engineer Eric Wies opened the Informational meeting at 5pm introducing himself and providing a brief overview of the project. Mr. Wies spoke of the history of the Retsof Collections System that was built in the 1950's and how portions have been replaced and upgraded. Mr. Wies stated that the Town realized in the early 90's that the water/wastewater system was in dire need of repair and has been trying to obtain grant funding to reduce the cost to homeowners while at the same time complying with NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation regulations. Mr. Wies quoted that a grant has been obtained at the interest rate of 1.25%

Mr. Wies noted that the Town and their engineering firm have gone back and forth with what is the right method of repair making it affordable for our residents. In doing so, Mr. Wies explained that the cost for this project can only be incurred by those directly affected by the repairs and it cannot be taken on town wide or from those outside this area.

Mr. Wies did confirm there are approximately 100 customers and each homeowner will be contacted individually in the upcoming weeks to discuss the plan for their connection before any property construction commences.

Mr. Wies spoke more in depth regarding the project and said it would be in two portions, the Town's portion, and the homeowners. The Town's portion will include the piping, mechanicals, valves, laterals while the homeowner's responsibility is inside the home and their property.

Cost for this update is currently proposed at \$1.47M which include: construction, administrative, contingencies and engineering. A grant was obtained by the Town for \$364,000 bringing the cost to \$1,029,000. With an interest rate of 1.25% for 38 years, the estimated cost per household would be an annual charge of \$300 and would be on your property taxes as a debt service.

Mr. Wies also stated the Town will be utilizing \$132k from the Retsof Sewer fund balance to assist with the cost of installing a storm water lateral to each residence.

Mr. Wies confirmed that for years now, many homes have been draining storm water in to the Town's collection system which is against NYS codes plus causing wastewater treatment issues in addition to flooded basements for some residents. This project will address these issues, improve sewer function, and reduce the risk of sewer backups.

In speaking with the group, Mr. Wies reiterated many times throughout the meeting that CPL reps would be meeting with each of the homeowners to come up with the LEAST impactful situation for their property, while still complying with Town and State regulations. Currently, sanitary sewer and stormwater are going through the towns treatment plant which is taxing the system and not cost effective.

Mr. Wies said the contractor is slated to begin first week in May but does not have an exact location yet as to where they will be starting. There will be on site inspectors, mentioning CPL engineer, Casey DeGraff that will be dealing with any questions between the contractor and the homeowner, and all are encouraged to reach out with any issues that may arise during the project or restoration phase. It is the intention to have good lines of communication open between the contractor and homeowners, giving them notice prior to work happening in their immediate area, whether it be knocking on doors or affixing notices to your residences. Again, Mr. Wies expressed the intent is to have the least number of disturbances as possible with final completion slated for mid-late July, weather permitting.

Mr. Wies did mention that once contract work is completed, we will be looking at a year for the homeowner to then complete their portion. Mr. Wies noted there will be a cost to the homeowner saying it will vary from one residence to another depending on how best and affordable those changes can be made. Information regarding funding was also provided and will be available from USDA Rural Development based on income for those that may be eligible to apply.

Mr. Wies reassured residents that there is a one-year warranty for project restoration if homeowners are not satisfied, saying the goal is to get better conditions for some yards/lawns that you currently have, as drainage has been an ongoing issue for many.

Lastly, Mr. Wies did say that the plans had changed from the original project as costs have skyrocketed and have doubled therefore going forward, we needed to adjust accordingly.

At this time, Mr. Wies did open the meeting for questions or comments:

**Nancy Newcomb-** Asked about a time frame and contact information for Casey DeGraff/inspectors regarding ditching/trenching on her property and inquired as to whether she should reach out for an appointment.

Mr. Wies stated that each home's situation would dictate how installations would be done. Hoping there are alternatives that will reduce the impact on homeowners but we do not have answers yet. Once engineering reps meet with homeowners to devise an individual plan for your location, you will then have a better idea as to how to proceed. Also noting they will be sending notices out soon.

**Jeff Maggio-** Mr. Maggio stated that water is currently sitting in his yard and does not want to see any additional water from this project diverted on to his property.

**Jamie Cuccinotta-** Mr. Cuccinotta mentioned that trucks going to the Salt Mine on Retsof Road are often incorrectly redirected via GPS up Retsof Ave. having to turn around in an already tight space. If there is going to be open ditches and work being done, it will create an issue for potential problems or hazards.

**Sheila Gargan-** Mrs. Gargan asked Mr. Wies if there are going to be ditches, where will all the water be going? She also mentioned having a pump station in her yard and is not able to mow because it is currently a swamp.

Mr. Wies answered that we will not be dumping discharge water in any yard and need to sit with the individual homeowner to get a plan in place to avoid anything like that happening.

**Cindy Costa-** Mrs. Costa stated that she lives at the end of Tenth St. and when it rains everything backs up.

Mr. Wies replied saying that is exactly what we are trying to avoid with these updates, it is not sanitary.

**Nancy Newcomb-** Ms. Newcomb inquired as to when homeowners can make appointments to speak with reps about a plan for their homes.

Mr. Wies said that in a couple of weeks, they will see door hangers with contact information and notifications.

**Catherine Flynn-** Ms. Flynn stated that she and others that work with 9-5 schedules which will not allow them to be around during the day when the contractors are in the area.

Mr. Wies reiterated that reps and inspectors will be working at various times of the day and will be available for questions or for any issues you may have.

**Tyler Flynn-** Mr. Flynn asked Mr. Wies what size the pipe will be used for the updates.

Mr. Wies answered that it would be an 8" pipe.

**Sheila Gargan-** When will our road be done? (Retsof Ave)

Highway Supt. George Worden answered Mrs. Gargan by saying as soon as the project is completed.

Several comments were then made regarding the poor condition of the road.

**Tyler Flynn-** Mr. Flynn questioned the cost to Mr. Wies as to why if running parallel lines (sewer and stormwater) with one line being smaller piping in diameter, shouldn't that reduce the cost?

Mr. Wies did not provide an immediate response as he wanted more clarification from Mr. Flynn as to his question.

**Kim Davy-** Ms. Davy asked if there is a plan that Mr. Flynn could look at to assist with answers to his questions

Mr. Wies offered up the Bid Tabulations are available to be reviewed.

**Jeff Maggio-** Mr. Maggio inquired as to whether RG&E planned to replace gas lines on his street.

Mr. Worden said yes, they are planning to try and do a replacement project.

**Cathy Flynn-** When was the last time our sewer system was upgraded?

Both Mr. Wies and Supervisor Deming commented that the Sewer Plant is currently now undergoing upgrades.

**Cathy Flynn-** Ms. Flynn noted that going forward for sewer, it is \$348 for 38 years but we have been told that our road is in need of repair and would be fixed.

Supervisor Deming stated that this grant funding does not apply to roadways.

**Cindy Costa-** Mrs. Costa asked Mr. Wies if he had an estimate for the homeowners?

Mr. Wies replied that a "guesstimate" could be \$5,000 but wants to meet with each to help assist in the grant funding process in hopes of offsetting the costs.

**Cathy Flynn-** Ms. Flynn commented that the grant funding is only covering 1/3 of the projected cost and stated that many of the homes in the affected area have been there for a long time so why now?

**Jamie Cuccintta-** Mr. Cuccinotta replied to Ms. Flynn's prior comment and said that it is everywhere. All towns are needing now to comply and it is costing additional money to treat water that does not need to be treated through our system.

**Nancy Newcomb-** Ms. Newcomb inquired if there was anything stopping you from putting in a whole new system?

Mr. Wies answered yes, the cost.

**Jamie Cuccinotta-** Mr. Cuccinotta commented that a whole new system would result in a much bigger mess and significantly higher cost.

**Nancy Newcomb-** Ms. Newcomb stated that she was concerned about relying on electric for sump pumps in the event the power goes out which it often does.

Supervisor Deming asked Mr. Wies about the possibility of a dry well for certain situations and it was mentioned that it may not be practical in that type of soil.

**Tammy Pangrazio-** Ms. Pangrazio asked if someone does not currently have a sump Pump, you are saying we need one?

Mr. Wies answered yes, there is a good chance you will need one depending on your drain connection.

**Sheila Gargan-** Mrs. Gargan asked if the aesthetics of the new pump stations will look any better than the current ones? She has one in her yard and noted it is quite unsightly.

Mr. Wies did confirm for Mrs. Gargan that a pump station will remain in her yard but the new one will look much cleaner. Mr. Worden suggested maybe looking at getting screens or shrubbery which also may help to reduce the noise as well.

**Tyler Flynn-** Mr. Flynn commented that if the Town's share is approximately \$130,000, which is roughly \$1000 per household.

Mr. Wies did confirm that comment.

**Jeff Maggio-** Mr. Maggio inquired as to clean outs on his property and believes that he does not have any.

Mr. Worden did say that he will look in to that for Mr. Maggio.

**Nancy Newcomb-** Ms. Newcomb inquired how deep are the laterals to the homes are going to be?

Mr. Wies answered each depend on the home and can be anywhere from 5ft up to daylight.

**Cindy Costa-** Will front yards be torn up?

Mr. Wies and Mr. Worden said to some degree, again depending on the work required for the individual home. Mr. Worden did say that when the road his re done, there will be restoration work needed to some driveways.

**Jim Mustari-** Mr. Mustari asked how deep do the laterals have to be for them to not freeze in the winter?

Mr. Wies answered that as long as they can drain, freezing will not be an issue.

**Sheila Gargan-** Mrs. Gargan inquired as to right aways and where water is going to go Mr. Worden stated that the storm water will be addressed on all the different roads and streets.

**Dora Clancy-** Mrs. Clancy inquired as to whether the drainage currently going through her property will be addressed with this project.

Mr. Worden replied yes to her question.

**Cindy Costa-** Mrs. Costa wanted confirmation regarding who is responsible for the laterals to the houses.

Mr. Wies confirmed the town is responsible for the laterals and the homeowners are responsible for the internal plumbing and separation.

**Nancy Newcomb-** Ms. Newcomb was asking about ditches and depth in front of properties.

Mr. Worden said it is the hope that ditches can be mowed and attendees agreed they would be appreciative if that was the case.

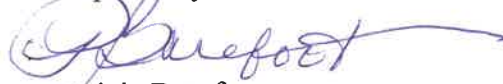
**Sheila Gargan-** Mrs. Gargan addressed Mr. Wies saying that he had mentioned some of the ditches could be behind houses but in her case, she has a designated wetland behind her.

Mr. Wies said he believes that DEC tagged it and water runs from the woods to her back yard.

Mr. Wies again reminded the group that Mr. DeGraff will be contacting homeowners and representatives involved with the project will be knocking on doors and leaving door hangers if not home starting the first week of May.

The Retsof Sewer Informational Meeting closed at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Patricia Barefoot  
Dep. Town Clerk