

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 23, 2015

A work session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, November 23, 2015 at 5:30 P.M., by President Christopher Salatas. Members present were Craig Earley, LeAnn Angerman, Donald Parker, Christopher Salatas, and Edgar Corns. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Attorney David Westland, Public Works Director Greg Shook, and SEH Representative Craig Hendrix.

Sanitary Collection System Evaluation - Mr. Hendrix began by giving a brief overview of how to navigate the report and highlighted a few key terms that are used frequently throughout the report, which are found in the "Report Glossary". He then guided the Council to Figure 1-1 in the report which shows a map of sanitary service territories. He stated some of the main reasons for this study and the water study was the Town's Annexation Plan and the Illiana Toll Road and the affects that would have on development and the need for water and sewer. Mr. Hendrix went on to explain Figure 1-2 which shows the average daily flow rates by month of both Lowell and Cedar Lake, and pointed out how many months the total flow has exceeded the plant's capacity. Going further in to the study, Mr. Hendrix highlighted all of the Table 2 graphs that show population trends and projections of how Lowell is going to fill in within its existing boarders, and how it would fill in within the proposed annexation areas. Figure 2-5 shows the two proposed service areas including the current town limits and the future town service limits. He noted that they did not look at anything on the east side of town or on the east side of the interceptor.

Mr. Hendrix went on to Figure 3-1 which shows the existing sanitary sewer system and how Cedar Lake's system ties in with Lake Dalecarlia and Lowell and is metered to measure combined flows daily. He stated in 1997 the Town had a flow study done which took flow meters and put them inside manholes right before the collector mains went in to the interceptor. These measured the water coming in to the interceptor for a month or so and they made some conclusions based on that information. We did use the information from that report because a study like that would cost around \$90,000 today, but in turn there were a few things that had to be made up based on how the town reacted and based on the flow study. Mr. Hendrix explained the sub-systems and how they show the difference in dry weather flow, wet weather flow, and what each sub-systems peaking factor is. He stated that it was no surprise that the older parts of town have a higher peaking factor than where newer construction is due to sump pumps that could be connected or drains draining right in to the sanitary without a sump pump.

Mr. Hendrix showed Figure 5-1 which modeled the existing system, the existing system and future buildout within the Town Limits, the existing system, future buildout within Town Limits, and Future Service Area 1, and the existing system, future buildout within Town Limits, Future Service Area 1 and 2. He stated that the good news was that the town could buildout from their current boundaries and there will still be no backups. He also highlighted, in section 4, the dry weather flow average that was figured using the month of February from the year 2008-2014. Coming from Cedar Lake the average was 1.9 mgd, and coming in from Lowell was 1.8 mgd. Those two make 3.7 mgd on average, and the plant capacity is 4 mgd. This number is not what IDEM uses, they actually calculate it differently and it is around 3.0. On a typical day, however, you are close to your capacity. He explained that they used the largest peak flow event for April 2013 as the wet weather flow rate, which came in at 16.2 mgd.

Mr. Hendrix stated some time ago the town, under order by IDEM, created a long term control plan which included five phases. The first three phases have been completed, which puts us in to phase four; looking at the interceptor, and phase five; looking in to the actual system for corrections. When you start looking at future service areas, we look at the type of flow that would be projected. Mr. Hendrix broke down the service areas and how they would affect the increase in flow to the interceptor. He stated the

actiflow took care of wet weather flow and may be able to get you off of the agreed order with IDEM early, but we still need to address the dry weather flow.

Councilman Parker had asked if the extra flow from Cedar Lake to Lowell is seeping in to the pipes and if that was a concern. Mr. Hendrix stated it would be a concern. Councilman Parker asked if that was seeping in, would there be sewage seeping out of the pipe as well? Mr. Hendrix stated usually pressure from the outside is forcing water inside the pipe, the sewage would not necessarily be seeping out of the pipe. He stated the question is how do you introduce new sanitary flow without upgrading the plant? There is no way you will knock out all of the inflow, even with a new system. You will either have to knock out the I&I (Inflow and Infiltration) or upgrade the plant. These numbers are without Lowell being fully built out, which you will be responsible for.

Mr. Hendrix stated the study has been an exercise on eliminating infiltration. The next phase in the plan is to look at the interceptor, which is running full. It is hard to believe that the pipe would be in that bad of shape, so there has to be an issue. Discussion followed. Mr. Hendrix stated depending on the issue with the interceptor, repairs can be made that would not affect the capacity. He went on to explain how the pipe could be sealed to stop any infiltration. Councilman Corns asked if it was costly. Mr. Hendrix stated yes it is, but it is not more costly than tearing it out and replacing it. We first need to get a price to inspect the pipe to find where the cracks would be and where the infiltration would be. Councilman Parker asked if this would be something that would be brought up at the JMOB meeting. Mr. Hendrix stated yes, since it is shared, it should be brought up there. We are not differing from your plan that is already in place, we are agreeing with it. Councilman Parker stated it had been mentioned that we could maybe do this in-house, but it sounds like something that needs to be contracted out. Mr. Hendrix agreed. He stated for a 42" - 48" pipe, the estimate is \$400 per foot to slip line it, and you have 25,000 feet of pipe. Councilman Parker stated you may not have to use that throughout the entire pipe. Director Shook stated it is not something you would do in one project.

Councilman Earley stated that previously it was said that the inflow from Cedar Lake may have to be interrupted while you are doing this, and asked what the capacity of their EQ Basin was. Mr. Hendrix stated 14 million gallons. Councilman Earley asked what their average usage in a dry month was. Mr. Hendrix stated about 2 million gallons per day. Councilman Earley stated so that would give you about six or seven days to work with, and said we calculate the usage of the sewage by the water consumption of our consumers, which is a rough estimate, but we can assume that a percentage of that water goes down the drain. Using those figures versus what ends up down there, would that give you an idea of what is infiltrated? He stated in his opinion it needs to be fixed, no matter the number, but even if the capacity of the plant is increased, we will still have these issues. Director Shook stated when you decrease the water in the interceptor, you will actually be increasing the capacity at the plant. Discussion followed.

Director Shook stated he did have a map from the 1980's of the interceptor that showed cracks and since then, nothing has been done to repair it. It is time for us to take that to the JMOB and get serious about repairing it. Councilman Corns asked if the repairs could be done in portions. Mr. Hendrix stated you can scan the whole thing and then start with the worst spots and go from there. Discussion followed regarding scanning the entire pipe versus doing sections at a time.

Mr. Hendrix stated that further in the report it is explained how to serve the areas, but noted that he would not recommend taking any of the new flow into the existing mains, rather there needs to be a new pump station. He also mentioned that Stage 2 may be the first stage since the Illiana Toll Road has been put on hold. Mr. Hendrix touched on some recommendations from Chapter 6 including automatic gates, but stressed that they would focus on the interceptor first.

Bryan Byrnes, Paramount Media Advisors, explained that WLPR-FM 89.1 is a reserved channel that is

licensed to Lowell and was originally put on the air as a religious station by American Family Radio. He stated that in late 2008 they had purchased the station for \$1,050,000 and were hoping to at least break even on the sale. Mr. Byrnes went in to further detail about the station stating that the station airs local news and public affairs programming, and that income for the station is derived from local sponsors who underwrite the station and "Pledge Drives" that are held periodically during the calendar year. He stated they were looking to buy a new station that has a larger coverage area than WLPR does, which is why they are looking at selling. Councilman Parker asked if there would be any financial statements available to review. Mr. Byrnes stated he could get that information to the Council along with any leases and pertinent agreements. There are many towns the size of Lowell that have their own radio station and use it for educational purposes, safety reasons, municipal reasons, or entertainment purposes. President Salatas stated he would be interested in the financial statements being sent to the attorney. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hendrix stated right now you split the cost based on flow with Cedar Lake. Cedar Lake would not benefit dollar wise from fixing the interceptor, only Lowell would. Councilman Earley asked how we could expect them to pay for half of it. Director Shook stated the contract with Cedar Lake includes the operation and maintenance of the interceptor, EQ basin, and treatment plant are split according to the flow. Mr. Hendrix stated fixing the interceptor is after their meter. Discussion followed.

Mr. Hendrix presented the bid documents for the water project to the Council and explained the details of the plans for the three projects including the tank, well drilling, and well house.

The work session was closed at 6:50 P.M.

Christopher Salatas, President

Attest:

Judith Walters
Clerk-Treasurer