

Mrs. Briggs informed residents that the sewer commission is hosting an information meeting on the sewer projects and Mr. Eric Smith was present to make a presentation on the grinder pumps.

Presentation With Mr. Eric Smith from E One Sewer Systems.

Mr. Smith explained the mechanics of the grinder pumps and how the flow of the pump works. He had a demonstration and an E-1 Pump on display and explained how it worked.

Q – Does the vent on top of the outdoor grinder pump omit outdoor gases?

A – He stated that the unit does vent to the atmosphere. Within the station there are two sections, a lower section and an upper section and both sections do vent to atmosphere. It doesn't submit any odor associated with it. The tank itself is small in size and the amount of wastewater stored in the tank is approximately 24 gallons.

Q – Will all phases be gravity fed and or low pressure sewers?

A – Mr. Geremia indicated that in the phase 3 project which isn't completely designed as of yet stated that it will be a combination of gravity and low pressure sewers within the phase 3 project. The phase 3 project would then discharge over the bridge and into the pumping station which is proposed to be located next to the fire station on the phase 2 project. Yes, there will be portions that are gravity fed and portions that will be low pressure within the phase 3 project area. Phase 1A and phase 1B are all low pressure systems that are being discussed at this information meeting this evening.

Q – Can the grinder pumps be installed interior and/or exterior?

A – Yes, they offer both indoor and outdoor pumps. The standard unit is approximately 93 inches tall and is buried out in the yard. An indoor/outdoor unit pumps themselves are almost identical and the way they pump and both work are the same.

Q – How long does it take for a technician to arrive if there is a problem?

A – There are 5 service technicians. They will be contacted immediately if there are any problems and should arrive approximately within an hour to an hour in a half for when a service call is made. They are a 24 hour service department.

Q – If the pump fails, what is the cost going to be to replace the pump?

A – If the entire pump was to fail, the cost would be approximately \$1,880. The pump itself is \$1,700.00. The cost for a half hour for diagnostic would be \$150.00.

Q – For the people who has grinder pumps, has that be predetermined by the designers and who makes that determination and who will need a grinder pump and who will not?

A – The grinder pumps in phase 1A and 1B has been set up for a low pressure system. All of the users have been designed with a grinder pump. The phase 2 project is a combination because there are some homes who sit lower than the roadway and they have to pump up to the roadway. There are some areas that sit level with the roadway and the roadway grade changes dramatically and the installation of various pump stations will be cost prohibitive. So in the design of the St. Paul project area, it would depend on the finish floor elevation and the grade outside and that determination is made throughout the design phase by the engineers.

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Q – Is there another community in Rhode Island who is using these?

A – Yes there is. The city of Warwick has several thousand in use right now. They have a tremendous track record in specific locations especially along the coastline. The pumping stations would be prohibited because of the flood conditions and E-1's are used on a standard basis and they have not provided any significant operational problems and they are used throughout Rhode Island.

Q – Are the pumps going to affect real estate value on my home?

A – It has no impact on the real estate value on your home. In fact with sewers the trend has always been especially with sewers it increases the value of the home. Unfortunately, most of the people who now need sewers, the easier projects are always done with gravity. Now as you look at the cost associated with low pressure verses gravity, in the cost for the homeowner those are done with ten cents on the dollar with federal and DEM money to save money and this is funded 100% by the residents. So they have looked at the cost associated with each of these and for example looking at projects 1A and 1B, due to the ledge constraints and if you were to go with a gravity system, it would probably add another \$10,000 in assessment fees to each one of the homeowners and the decision was made by the sewer commission that the cost per homeowner would be a significant reduction.

Q – What is the maintenance on the E-1 pumps?

A – It is no different than a septic system. You still have to pump out a septic system and you still have to maintain a septic system. And if conventional septic systems are no longer accepted due to high ground water, the cost for those septic system and the maintenance are ten times the cost of what they would experience with the E-1 grinder pumps.

Q – Can the assessment from the house be amortized over 20 years and will they be able to do that with the pumps also?

A – The pump is included in the assessment.

Q – If your house is 250 ft. from the road, will the grinder pump work?

A – When the system was designed, it was designed with all various scenarios in mind and were taken into account, distance, grades, slopes etc. and the pump worked well within their working limits. The distance of 250 ft. was well evaluated and there were no issues.

Q – In the event of a power outage what is the capacity of the pump?

A – The total capacity of the system is 70 gallons. Every time the pump shuts off there is 24 gallons in there. On the control box there is a receptacle and on that receptacle that can be hooked up to an emergency generator and could power that unit on an extended period of time when there is a power outage. From past experience, and those residents who have city water related to wastewater flushes and the minimum would be a gallon to a gallon in half of flushes and would give you a reasonable amount of time approximately a couple of days.

Q – Can you keep your current septic system as a backup?

A – Once you have sewers go by, you can no longer continue using your septic system per DEM requirements and It must be filled in.

Q – What is the electrical service requirement for the E-1 grinder pumps?

A – It is a 30 amp 220 volt service.

Q – What is the life expectancy of the pump or in a 20 year period to replace the pump?

A – The average mean time to service the pumps is about 10 years. That is called a service call not necessarily a pump replacement. The pumps do get wear on them like parts on a car and the time between calls are 10+ years.

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Q – Are the pumps able to be installed in a backyard that has a high water table?

A – In past experience looking at the guts and buoyancy of this particular unit there is a concrete base installed with the unit and once it is installed and back filled properly there isn't any problems.

Q – What happens if there is a long term power outage?

A – The alarm panels on the E-1 units are equipped with transfer generators switches. All service technicians are equipped with generators, so in the event of a power outage, the company would be called and respond.

Q – What is the average cost for maintenance of a grinder pump?

A – There is no typical maintenance to a grinder pump other than in the event of a service issue.

Q- How susceptible are these pumps to lightening strikes?

A – The grinder pumps goes through a whole host of testing, like any other electrical appliance there will be a degree that could be susceptible to electrical strikes and there is a panel on them to protect them.

Q – How many pumps are used for a two-family home or apartment house? Is there one pump or two pumps required for a two family home?

A – There is one pump for a two-family home. If the home was up and down apartments, it would be one pump. If it is a duplex which has two waste water lines leaving the building it would have two pumps.

Q – If it was a four apartment house, how many pumps would be installed?

A – It would be one pump for the four families and that would require a different pump altogether.

Q- Will Willerval and the Tanglewood have pumps in those areas?

A – Mr. Geremia the engineer stated that once the design portion is completed for that phase 3 project he will identify those areas that will have pumps and those that won't and place it on the website and will be identified by plat, lot number and by house number.

Q – Because of historical ledge issues with blasting, will the wells be tested before hand?

A – There will be a pre-blast survey as far as testing the wells. In most instances where there is utilities in the roads natural gas lines, they can not blast. The ledge has to be mechanically removed. However if the resident feels there is a potential there and the resident feels that they may have problems with their well during the ledge removal process, the engineer Jim Geremia strongly recommends that the town does not do it and it would be up to the resident to do a detailed analysis of their well. Because if it fails, then the contractor's insurance would be called into play and then the resident would have a good claim if in fact it does fail.

Q – Will the roads be closed down entirely when being worked on?

A – During the construction, the engineers will take a close look at all of the roads again and they are not yet all 100% designed. The engineers will work the best they can to minimize the impact that the construction will have. Mr. Geremia stated that there will be some inconveniences. It is also best that they are aware of the constraints in those areas, so they can address the issues in advance.

Q – What will happen when ledge is found on a resident's property and how will it be removed?

A – They must go before the sewer commission and the commission will make a recommendation to the town council and the council will make a determination either a full or partial waiver and a lien would be placed on the property.

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Q – If a resident does not tie in due to ledge, are they required to pay the assessment fee?

A – Yes

Q – Has Blackstone, Millville Massachusetts been contacted to help offset the costs for the Town of North Smithfield for those properties that border the Massachusetts line for an inter-municipal agreement?

A – It is a very complex situation to cross over into State lines and would have to get the legislators in MA and RI involved along with making state contacts and would also have to get EPA involved.

Q- Why wasn't a pumping station chosen over individual pumps for each household?

A – The opportunity was presented to the sewer commission by the engineers and they took a look at phase 1A & 1B and the amount of ledge involved. It would have cost them \$1,000,000.00 for 100 homes. Based upon the calculation, the cost would come out to over \$10,000 per home. The sewer commission decided that it was more economical to be able to cover and spread the costs of the projects in the minimal amount of dollars over the various project areas. As going forward in the project phases 2 and 3, it is a combination of gravity and low pressure. There is only one superintendent who monitors 11 pump stations.

Q – Can we cease phase 2 and phase 3 from the project?

A – That would be the sewer commission and the town council's decision. There are numerous grants that are being looked at for the phase 2 and 3 projects. One grant that is slated to be received for the phase 2 project is known as the Interceptor Bond Fund. In the Interceptor Bond Fund if they don't go forward with the phase 2 project, the town is slated to lose over \$1,000,000.00 in grants if that is removed from the phase 2 project. In the phase 2 project area, one of the requirements of the Interceptor Bond Fund is mandatory tie ins. In other areas where there may not be grants that could be considered, but it is part of the obligation SRF and that they do look at mandatory tie-ins.

Q – Is the Branch Village Revitalization project part of the \$21,000,000 sewer project?

A – No it is not. It is separate and apart from the sewer project. Based on the fact that Branch Village as being in the sewer districts of Great Road East and St. Paul Street were going to have sewers. Based on that, the Branch Village Redevelopment Committee was able to go and seek out additional money that is NOT included in the \$21,000,000 sewer bond project. They used it as leverage to seek out grant money to aid the development in developing that district. But it is separate and apart from the sewer construction project.

Q – If someone can not pay their assessment and is requesting a hardship case, does the remaining users have to pay their share?

A– No. They would not be connected. They would not be granted a hardship on the assessment. The assessment is handled just like real estate taxes. The hardships can be granted on the extension on the connection or the user fee.

Q – If there are three inspections, do I have to pay for all inspections?

A – If there is a pump installed, then an inspection would be required by both an electrician and a plumber. Without the pump you would have the plumber inspection.

Q – What would the cost be for electricity per year if a pump is installed.

A – The cost per year would be approximately \$22.00.

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Q – What is the probability that the system and or pump will fail?

A – If there was a failure within the collection system, it would be maintained by the sewer superintendent and his staff. There is a small probability that it would fail at some point in the next 20 years. Please note that this is the most reliable pump that is used for waste water and is used throughout New England and in particular within the State of RI.

Q – Who would be liable for blasting if and when it takes place?

A – There are provisions in the contract specifications and if blasting occurs, if there is natural gas mains in the area, blasting cannot take place. If blasting becomes an issue, they will mechanically excavate the ledge where it occurs. In certain areas, blasting cannot take place no matter how deep the ledge is. If there is blasting that is required and allowed, there will be a pre-blast survey conducted, if damage occurs and the blasting caused those damages, then the contractor would be liable for the damages as a result caused by the blast.

Q – For the phase 3 project what will be used, a low pressure or gravity fed system?

A – The phase 3 design has not been completed as of yet. It could be a combination of both low pressure and a gravity fed system. Once the design has been completed, it will be announced.

The Sewer Commission has gone out and obtained funds that are available to homeowners at a low-interest rate so they can spread the costs of those connection fees out over a five-year period. It is significant less than what a traditional bank has to offer.

NOTE: There are 4 other sewer districts in the Town of North Smithfield, and in each case only those residents who were affected by the users and were all under a general obligation bond and in each case and only those properties who were affected by those projects paid for their construction costs. This is not a first and this is the way it has been done in North Smithfield with past projects and this is the way it was done in this project also.