

BOARD OF ALDERMEN COMMITTEE MINUTES PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**DATE: 04/05/2016 CHAIR: ALDERMAN ED LARSON
CONVENED: 5:30 P.M. ADJOURNED: 5:51 P.M.**

(AUTHORIZATION TO SEEK PROPOSALS FOR HYDROLOGIC AND HYDRAULIC MODEL OF OUR WASTEWATER COLLECTION SYSTEM)

Committee Members Present:

- 1. Alderman Ed Larson—Chair**
- 2. Alderman Christopher Ettori**
- 3. Alderman Scott Tommola**

Other Present:

- 1. Alderman William Notte**
- 2. Alderman David Allaire**
- 3. Alderman Sharon Davis**
- 4. D.P.W. Commissioner Jeffrey Wennberg**
- 5. City Engineer James Rotundo**

On March 3, 2016 the Rutland City Board of Alderman referred to the Public Works Committee a request to have the Mayor seek proposals from qualified individuals and firms to analyze and create a computer-based Hydrologic and Hydraulic model of the Rutland City wastewater and storm water collection systems.

New regulations and statutory requirements are the focus of the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Legislature which will come on the heels of the Vermont Clean Water Act passed in 2015. These as yet unknown storm water requirements may impose further costs and improvement requirements to the City of Rutland.

At present the City operates under a Section 1272 enforcement order regarding CSO's and continues to seek a resolution of the long standing dispute with the State over Moon Brook and its watershed that is served by the combined sewers.

Commissioner Wennberg outlined that over the past decade Rutland City has invested about Eleven Million Dollars (\$11,000,000.00) in CSO abatement projects. The most recent of which was the Northwest Neighborhood Improvement Program. Additionally, to comply with the 1272 order the City has identified and submitted two (2) potential projects accompanied by a project schedule. These projects would go to eventual bonding with projected costs in the multi-million dollars range.

Commissioner Wennberg indicated that what the City does not have is a computerized system that would detail the entire makeup of the storm and wastewater system. The Environmental Protection Agency has a model program which is available to communities at no cost. However, data input, etc. is the function of the local community. The Commissioner stated to the Committee that the Department of Public Works is not comfortable moving ahead with the next project without first investing in a hydrologic and hydraulic model of the City's wastewater collection system. As a result of such a system substantial benefits may be derived from the computer program, thus allowing for nonbonding required type improvements to move ahead and allowing factual data based conclusions on projects rather than educated guesswork.

The Commissioner indicated that D.P.W. is requesting an extension from State D.E.C. to allow for time for implementation and testing of the computerized system; which could take up to three years. Potential cost for the system is expected to be in the \$200,000.00 range, however the City is listed as Number two (#2) on a list of supported projects in a grant application. Rutland City is asking for up to \$150,000.00 which is the maximum grant available. Burlington recently implemented the computerized CSO Model at a cost of around \$300,000.00.

To have a better understanding of the CSO system in Rutland City, requires the best information available in order to make the most informed and cost effective decisions regarding CSO obligations. D.P.W. feels the analysis system which focuses on hydrologic and hydraulic modeling are imperative to achieve that understanding.

This type of model will further assist to validate the cost effectiveness of both future bonded as well as grant and budgeted improvements that are recommended for the CSO system.

Alderman Ettori moved that the Committee recommend to the full Board of Alderman approval of the Mayor being authorized to seek proposals from qualified individuals and firms to analyze and create a computer based Hydrologic and Hydraulic model of the Rutland City wastewater and storm water collection system. I so move.

Respectfully submitted:



Alderman Ed Larson—Chair.