

Regional School District 13
Board of Education Educational Resources Committee
April 29, 2015

Members Present: Kerrie Flanagan, Robert Fulton, Norm Hicks, Anthony Onofreo, Jeremy Renninghoff

Others Present: Laura Francis First Selectman, Robert Francis, Kathryn Veronesi, Ronald Melnik

By phone: DEP: Dave Renquist, Patrick Bove, Jing Chen

CT DEPH: Vickie Carrie, Ed Hathaway, Annie Laughlin

Introduction of the project was given by Laura Francis. The design phase is 90% complete. In designing the project, provisions were made for District 13. At this point in the project it is necessary to make a decision about whether the district will tie in with the project or not. Rob Francis has done preliminary work on determining how things will work.

The District well sites would have to be abandoned. EPA will cover initial abandonment of the wells. This is part of the Super Fund project.

The pipeline will come down Pickett Lane. It will be aligned with the concept of the district as best as it can. There will be three meter sites and there will be a shut off if needed. The cost is 90% EPA and 10% State. This is a Super Fund site so EPA and State are responsible. Any costs that are outside the project are the districts. The 12 inch line would run down Pickett Lane. They would come in off Rt. 17 and would go right to the building. Shut off and valving would be a per building basis. Trying to chase down leaks and doing maintenance can be done by building.

There is potable, and fire and safety protection water, how does that go for distribution and use? You are connected to more than one reservoir. You have unlimited water. You could run all fire on a 12 inch line for days. On-going maintenance and monitoring of the existing fire protection system would not have to be maintained going forward. There will be a much more robust and reliable system. It depends on a diesel standby, but with a public system you would not need this.

Engineers will address the connections over both culverts on Pickett Lane.

Laura Francis said the State and EPA are not responsible for consumption costs. The price that was given was worst case scenario; Middletown price plus 10% over and above. That has not yet been negotiated. Rob has worked with Vickie to determine what costs will be avoided if we go with this.

Timeframe in going forward: Hoping to secure funding, construction and operating by 2017-2018, at the whim of other projects, but optimistic about funding for project.

Vickie Carrie stated you would have meter charge per building and consumption. Middletown pays \$50/month. EPA made a request to the national panel for funding of the project and anticipate an answer very soon. We anticipate that they will get funding. It is unlikely there will be any field work this year.

Ed Hathaway said there was a significant area of ground water contamination especially in the Strong School area. Our water quality is only as good as the last test. There is a potential to be impacted with ground water contamination based on the work that is going to be done.

Patrick Bove stated right now you have the door to the treasury open on state and federal side. The door is open to make a connection to a water supply that is a guaranteed water supply for the next 100-200 years. It is highly probable that you will have Citizen Action groups asking for more frequent sampling of the water. If it is found out that the water is bad, the district will need to pay for the connection at that time. You would still have to maintain your equipment, etc. so that you will likely experience a wash in terms of costs to the district. This will give you long-term peace of mind.

The water source to the field will need an enhancement. The existing line can be utilized.

The Water Co is responsible for the service up to the meter. Another good reason to have 3 meters.

A letter of intent is needed in order to continue with the design phase. EPA/State will be seeking an agreement from all landowners. A consent indicates the responsibility for the cost.

Annie Laughlin stated we have had this discussion many times with many citizens and put the information in fact sheets to be put on a website. We can work together to ask for a letter to include information that can be shared with the Board.

The conference call ended at 4:50pm.

The town is required to send an ordinance to citizens to abandon their wells. The town is working on language i.e. to include being able to use for agriculture and a Durham Manufacturing provision. At the last Town Meeting, one resident was particularly angry that plans did not include the school district.

Some concern about plume migrating once pumps stop pumping and when new water is introduced from Middletown. We will continue connection with EPA for some time to assess status of plume. Some movement noted on Maple Lane near John's Way. Town now has the distinction of being one of the most polluted sites in the state of CT. There were other sites, but they have been fixed.

Well room is a significant investment. We use CT Water; we need to have an operator and use it district-wide. We do testing. We would likely save \$4000 in testing and \$4000 in operating. There is a 100 hour power motor and massive control board on fire pump side. On potable side there is a massive control panel as well as a booster pump. Everything is approaching 12 years old. Previously there was a filtration system at Strong School.

CT Water's advice is when you have the opportunity to tie in, do it. The fact that it is looping around maximizes a positive impact. Over the years we will need money yearly. \$5-10,000 each time there are well problems. All work over the past 2 summer has cost \$20,000 plus, the district paid.

Supply system has been sized. First feasibility study came in too tight. When public water supply plan was sized in Middletown, it was deemed to be an adequate supply.

Amortization – what would the payback be? If there is a repayment check, check to see if there is a waiver.

The district may want to ask for additional hydrants. Worst case scenario might have to add a booster pump. The district would need to hire an engineer to evaluate the fire protection piping and potentially add booster pumps at the schools to deliver the required PSI.

The project will be approved now but not done until 2016. It will give the district another year to be more specific about any capital cost and budget impact. Impact on insurance might be a benefit. Insurance rates for everyone in Durham will be positively impacted. Durham Manufacturing/EPA will clean-up and take care of any unused tanks.

The district will get the fact sheet for Board of Education. June 3, 2015 is the Public Hearing in Durham.

Mr. Hicks made a motion, second Dr. Onofreo to recommend the Board of Education approve the water main project. All were in favor.

It will be checked to see if the district will get reimbursed for water consumption for operating an emergency shelter.

Next ERC meeting May 20, 2015 at 6:30pm.

The meeting was adjourned.