

On February 1, 2016 we had a public meeting for the sewer project. At that meeting we were asked a number of questions. Numerous people asked similar or identical questions so I (Susanne Lawton) will address the separate subjects of the questions instead of each individual's questions.

- I. Charles Town Utility Board is concerned that the District will be able to pay the monthly bulk rate to them.
My answer: I responded to Ms. Arnett that the District now pays on time and we have included their bulk rate to our calculations for our "after project" rate.
- II. Charles Town is also is concerned about septicity and odor control issues that they have at the Charles Town wastewater treatment plant.
My answer: I explained that the District uses Bioxide at three of our pump stations and we have monitors at downstream pump stations to assure that our feed rate is accomplishing the goal of reducing odor and septicity by reducing hydrogen sulfide. Unfortunately, we cannot control how others treat the wastewater after it leaves our system. Bioxide does work and I forwarded the data we have to Ms. Arnett so that she and her engineer could see that it does. I also offered to add an additional monitoring point in their system to assure that all of our system is properly treated before it leaves our system.
- III. Commissioner Dale Manual, who is also a PSD customer and stated that he was speaking for himself, was concerned about the following items.

(1) The rate impact on current customers and suggested that the development community should pay their fair share for the project.

My answer: The District is also concerned about rates and we do not needlessly raise them. Developers do pay for the entire infrastructure within the new development and for the offsite infrastructure they need to reach our system per our Alternate Mainline Extension Agreements. The currently proposed project is needed to provide reliable and sanitary service to our existing customer base. It replaces existing facilities that are past their expected service life. When the District replaces any component to our system we have it sized based on general engineering and regulatory requirements and practices. The District shares Commissioner Manuals concerns that the development community should pay their fair share for the project. The District has tried to include a capacity impact fee for its entire system so funding will be available for necessary improvements. The District welcomes any assistance the Commission can provide in establishing an impact fee for sewage service so that the development community pays their fair share. The District was the first utility in the State of West Virginia to establish a capacity impact fee, but the Public Service Commission ultimately reversed its position and removed the fee from our tariff when they decided to deny the Flowing Springs Project. That impact fee included approximately \$2,500 for collection systems and \$5,000 for treatment plant capacity.

(2) He also stated that there is legislation that may eliminate the need for utilities to pay prevailing wage saving 30% on projects. He asked if the District will pass this savings on to our customers or give it to the developers.

My answer: If the prevailing wage in WV is eliminated of course we would not use it in our projects if we did not borrow any federal money for the projects. The most money for utility projects in WV comes from federal sources and the loans from those sources require the utility to pay Davis Bacon wages. So, even if we don't have to pay prevailing wages, we are still forced to pay Davis Bacon wages which are almost exactly the same amounts of prevailing wage.

- IV. Is the Rule 42 based on new customers or no new customers?
My answer: The project is based on our existing customer base. The Bond Holders do not allow a utility to base loan payment on projected growth because it doesn't always come to fruition.
- V. How much old pipe would be replaced in the new project?
My answer: There will be no direct replacement of existing pipe because the proposed project will take a different path than the current system.
- VI. Will the new system take care of Inflow and Infiltration (I & I) issues?
My answer: The District's I & I problem is not significant. Infiltration and Inflow (I & I) are continual problems in all sewer systems. It does not matter where a system is, it will have some amount of I & I. It is challenging to quantify the amount of I & I in a system because it is not easy to calculate how much water actually goes down the drain. Since we bill by water meters, as many utilities do, we only know how much goes into a home. We can get a good idea of how much is pumped from our pump stations by the hours the pumps run, but this is, at best, an educated guess. Flow meters are helpful but they too are just an estimate as depending upon the flow rate, angle of flow as opposed to the flow gauge and numerous other anomalies, as these things can affect how well they work. Most utilities have found that measurements using pump times and flow meters give a good estimate to work from but cannot give a fully accurate reading. We track run times at pump stations and compare them to flow meter reads and water meter reads. The flow meter reads do occasionally show rises in times of precipitation, but not always. The District has 3 portable flow meters and we normally try to keep them in one place long enough to have a few good rain events to help us determine where we may have issues with inflow and infiltration. If problems are evident, we move them back in the system until we can better define where the problems are occurring. At that point we can use our sewer camera to look in gravity lines for cracks and root intrusion. We have used smoke testing where it is appropriate and have been successful in locating problem areas. These areas were not found strictly with smoke testing. We used other tools to get us to the point where smoke testing is helpful. We have found that significant inflow and infiltration has been due to open laterals (without caps) and inflow into manholes. Where we find that the problem is with inflow into manholes we have used "pans" in the manholes, which block the precipitation from getting in the manholes. The pans look like a large Frisbee that fits in the top of a manhole and rest on the rim. They work very well. We also have a manhole inspection program in which we make regular inspection of all our manholes, establish GPS coordinates and repair any damage that we find. Smoke testing is not the only way to find I & I, in fact, it has limitations as do the other methods. If the ground is saturated with ground water, many cracks and root intrusion will not show up, therefore effective smoke testing is seasonable. Smoke testing is good at showing areas where there are openings directly to the surface, such as rain gutters connected to the sanitary sewer line, laterals without caps and floor drains in buildings and we can use it for that year round. Smoke testing requires much planning to notify all customers and emergency responders exactly when the testing will occur as it can cause people to panic thinking that there is a fire. To sum up our I & I elimination efforts, we use a number of different tools to find and eliminate I & I. No system will ever be totally free of I & I but with experienced people, such as District personnel, working on the issue on a consistent basis, the District is successful in reducing excess flows. The District will continue to monitor its system for inflow and infiltration and make the necessary repairs. Depending upon the final path of the new facilities, there will likely be between 100 and 125 manholes in the new system.

VII. What are the benefits of the new system?

My answer:

(1) It is the District's obligation to provide sufficient facilities to provide safe and efficient service to our customers and it gets impossible as time passes, to meet these requirements with aging and "at capacity" facilities.

(2) The relocation of the pump station that serves Breckenridge, Briar Run, Cambridge, Walnut Grove and Security Hills, Beallair and Sanitary Associates. The Breckenridge pump station was not installed to be a permanent pump station. It was not built in a suitable location to be able to handle the full buildout of the (then) three new developments of Breckenridge, Briar Run and Cambridge along with Walnut Grove. It was to be eliminated within a year or two of its construction because those flows were going to flow by gravity to a new wastewater treatment plant which was being planned in Millville. That plant was never built so the temporary Breckenridge pump station has now been in service for over 16 years. It now handles over 800 homes along with Sanitary Associates. The District has spent hundreds of thousands of dollars to eliminate problems that come along with using a temporary station as a permanent fixture. Charles Town now has plans to remove the flows from Sanitary Associates, but this will not eliminate our problems at this station. The station needs to be relocated lower in the watershed. The proposed project will address this issue.

(3) The other benefits of the project will be to replace or eliminate infrastructure that has reached its capacity and expected useful life along Old Rt. 9 and the Woodlawn Crossing Mobile Home Park.