

Project Updates

State Revolving Fund Applications —

The Priority List applications were due on March 1st for both Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) projects. For a project to be eligible for construction funding through the program, the applicant must submit the project to the priority list (P-list) annually. Using a point system, the state scores the projects submitted and determines which ones to fund (results are released in late spring). I submitted applications for the following projects:

DWSRF

- Chipman Hill Water Tank
- South Street Waterline Relocation
- Foote Street Waterline Replacement
- Gorham Lane Waterline Replacement

CWSRF-

- Roger's Road Pump Station Upgrade
- South Street Sewer/ Stormwater Replacement
- Bakery Lane Infrastructure Improvements

Chipman Hill Water Storage —

DeBisschop has completed the tree clearing limits. The crew will be constructing an access road for the geotechnical rig to obtain the necessary soil borings in locations shown on map. We will follow the guidance of herpetologist, Jim Andrews, which is to drain the reservoir after the risk of refreezing is gone, so that amphibians/reptiles will be warm enough to move on their own if not relocated. Therefore, we will plan to obtain the borings in May and will attempt to relocate as many of the creatures and egg masses as possible.

The Construction Permit was submitted on 2/28/2023 which increases our scoring for DWSRF funding. I have also been in contact with Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) to inform them of our intent to apply. They require a letter of interest in March and then invite participants to apply in spring- with awards determined in the fall.

Halladay Rd. Pump Station—

Our initial conversation with MALT didn't result in procuring an easement to construct the housing for the generator. The organization feels strongly that their easement does not allow for construction of buildings and believes it would put them at risk as an organization. We have suggested that we exchange the exact square footage of our parcel, for the area being requested in the existing easement. This would essentially change the boundary of the MALT easement to include the Class II Wetland and riparian area. Alternatives to this plan is to apply for a Class II Wetland permit or take the land through eminent domain.

Police Department—

Dennis Newton began work on the HVAC systems two weeks ago. We have also received a quote from Robert Miller to install two steel doors on site—one at the top of the basement stairs and the other between the vehicle building and the storage area.

UVM Capstone Projects and Mary Hogan Elementary School Water Quality Project

As previously mentioned, I have been working with UVM Engineering students on a few different senior capstone projects for their degree. Keep the following dates in mind if interested in attending the presentations:

April 28th @ UVM Davis Center from 5-7pm- Design Night Poster Presentations

May 10th @ UVM from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.- Final Design Presentations

I also taught a lesson on Erosion and Stormwater for a fourth-grade class at Mary Hogan this week. The students have been learning about the natural effects of Earth's processes', and how engineers work to develop and improve our infrastructure to reduce the impacts. We combined the unit with a lesson on stormwater, and discussed how our actions have an impact on the water quality of Barnes Brook, Otter Creek, Lake Champlain, and beyond. I have been working with River Watch to secure funding for a riparian planting/ invasive species removal project along the stream behind the school and Overbrook Drive. If the funding is awarded, the fourth-graders will be participating in the planting efforts in the spring.

South St.—

Landmark put the project out to bid on February 21, 2023, with a closing date of March 20, 2023. We have a pre-bid meeting on March 6th at 10am, which will be an indicator for interest in the project. The pipe has been ordered with an anticipated delivery in mid-May. The Engineer's Estimate for the project came in around \$1.2M which is in addition to the pre-purchased pipe (~\$250,000). Landmark Engineering will be providing us with an Engineer's Agreement for the sewer/stormwater portion of the project. Ideally, this portion will be put out to bid in the fall—but that will depend on the waterline construction.

Colonial Drive—

We received a pay request for the Colonial Drive project. Included is the Fuel Price Adjustment which totaled \$34,667.17. This amount is in line with the estimate that we had in December which included \$23,083.91 but was prior to paving or project completion. There is still a 1% retainage held for spring cleanup, seeding, mulching, and to lower three sewer manhole structures that are slightly high.

Discussion and Recommendations

Stonecrop Meadows- Summit Properties Proposal Discussion —

Summit Properties has put together a proposal to develop a mixed-income housing development on a parcel of land off Seminary Street Extension. The project is being proposed to align with the Town's Traditional Neighborhood Design (TND) criteria and will incorporate high-density, compact housing with bike/pedestrian access, community gardens, green space, and access to public transit.

The immediate goal of Summit Properties is to secure funding for the infrastructure component of the project.

Gorham Lane Agreement—

We have received an Engineer's Agreement from Otter Creek Engineering to provide engineering and administrative services necessary for project design and permitting. At our last meeting, there was concern that the sewer and stormwater should also be reviewed within this contract. Both of those systems were updated in 1994 as part of a combined sewer overflow project. The engineer will get base survey information as part of this contract and review drainage patterns to see if a detention or treatment system would be possible. An amendment would be issued to advance the stormwater design if possibilities exist. The proposed scope will not include permitting fees, easement acquisition assistance or bid and construction phase engineering.

- *I request the Committee recommend the Engineer's Agreement for \$48,000 to the Selectboard for approval.*

TAP Grant- Stormwater Feasibility Study—

In reviewing our application for a Stormwater Feasibility Study, the state had some concerns that we weren't requesting enough money to complete our goals. The awards will be determined within the next week or two, so they requested that we send in a revised request for funding. I subsequently emailed them, requesting that we increase our grant request from \$24,750 (\$4,950 match) to \$50,000 with a \$10,000 required match.

- *I request the Committee recommend the revised grant request for \$50,000 (\$10,000 match) to the Selectboard for approval.*

DPW and Police Station Storage Building Upgrades—

An RFP was issued some time ago for basic maintenance to be performed at the current DPW building. The work to be performed includes replacing the wooden soffit and trim on much of the building with composite material, installing a new gable end vent, installing an awning over the southern entrance, and replacing three shop doors with new steel doors.

Additionally, the contractor was asked to provide an estimate for installing two doors at the Police Station Storage Building. One door will separate the storage area from the vehicle portion of the building—to help alleviate heat loss. The other door is to be located at the top of the basement stairs and will help with air quality and moisture related concerns in the building.

- *I request the Committee recommend the DPW Proposal for \$22,220 to the Selectboard for approval.*
- *I request the Committee recommend the Police Dept. Storage Building Proposal for \$6,200 to the Selectboard for approval.*

South Street- Final Design Engineer's Agreement—

Landmark has requested an additional \$2,580 to bring the Engineer's Agreement to a revised total of \$31,286. There were a number of conflicts with the water and sewer elevation previously developed by Green Mountain Engineering. The original agreement with Landmark Engineering had assumed that it would be a simple conversion of existing data and plans—which unfortunately turned out inaccurate. By correcting the deficiency in advance, the Town is better protected from potential Change Orders during construction.

- *I request the Committee recommend Amendment No. 1 for a \$2,580 increase to the Final Design- Engineer's Agreement to the Selectboard for approval. This revision would bring the total to \$31,286 (originally \$28,706.00).*

Lead Service Lines Inventory/ Asset Management Plan Discussion—

The Drinking Water and Groundwater Protection Division (Division) has released the Vermont Service Line Inventory Templates and related guidance as part of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR). The inventory must identify the material or materials of all service lines in the system. The Town is required to inventory both the Town and the customer owned portions of the system. The inventories and replacement plans are required to be completed and submitted no later than October 16, 2024. Depending on how much of the Lead Service Line work we complete in-house, the estimated cost is \$302,273.

- Service line inventory loans have a repayment of 5 annual payments, beginning 5 years after the execution of the agreement.
- Middlebury qualifies for disadvantaged subsidy for 100% subsidy up to \$100,000, and 50% subsidy for the portion over \$100,000.
- The initial loan forgiveness based on the formula above would be \$201,136.
- Loan amount to be repaid would therefore be \$101,136.
- These loans have 0% interest and 0% admin fees.

In consideration of the Lead Service Line Inventory, I want to discuss completing an Asset Management Plan (AMP) for our Town infrastructure. The project could segway nicely into the lead-service line work. There are forgivable loans of up to \$50k for this type of effort that are available through the DW division. Development and preparation of these plans can take

anywhere from 6 to 12 months depending on the community and the desired level of effort. These plans typically include at a minimum:

- Level of Service (basically a statement of priorities/goals for the system)
- Asset inventory and condition assessment
- Life cycle cost analysis
- Risk Assessment
- Risk and Life cycle cost reduction
- Funding strategies