



MEMO

To: Board of Aldermen

From: Jeff Wennberg, Commissioner of Public Works

Date: January 3, 2014

Re: Sewer Bond Question for Annual City Meeting Ballot

Summary

The Department of Public Works requests the Board of Aldermen to place the following question before the voters of the City of Rutland on the March 2014 Annual Meeting ballot:

“Shall the bonds of the City of Rutland in an amount not to exceed \$5,200,000, with anticipation of and subject to reduction from available state and federal grants-in-aid and other financial assistance, be issued for the purpose of public improvements to the drainage and wastewater collection systems in the neighborhood of Crescent St, Grove St, Library Ave, and East Creek? This project is estimated to cost \$5,200,000. This project is required by Order of the State of Vermont and is necessary to expand the capacity of the drainage system to reduce the occurrence of overloaded sewers and street flooding, reduce the occurrence of discharges of untreated sanitary sewage into East Creek, and to better protect human health and water quality.”

In addition, an informational hearing will also need to be scheduled prior to the vote. I defer to the City Attorney concerning the timing and other requirements of the hearing.

Discussion

On June 29, 2012 the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation issued its “Final Amended 1272 Order #3-1285 – Combined Sewer Overflows” to the City of Rutland requiring that the City undertake a series of projects for the purpose of reducing the number of combined sewer overflow incidents. A combined sewer overflow (CSO) is an event where the volume of water collected by the combined storm and sanitary sewers exceeds the capacity of the wastewater treatment plant or other infrastructure (such as pump stations), and ‘overflows,’ or bypasses the plant to be directly discharged to the stream.

These events cause the direct discharge of untreated sanitary sewage to receiving waters, jeopardizing human health and the environment. An excessive number of CSOs, which the City has experienced, is a violation of the treatment plant’s operating permit

and State regulations. As a result the DEC issued the 1272 Order to bring the plant and sewer system into compliance with applicable regulations.

The 1272 Order requires the City to undertake multiple measures to address this violation. Among these are:

1. ***By no later than December 31, 2015, Rutland shall complete the Library Avenue Separation Project and reduce the frequency and magnitude of the overflows as described in the 2010 effectiveness report and March 20, 2012 letter to the Agency. This project will impact CSOs S/N 003 and 009. Written confirmation of the project's completion shall be submitted to the Agency within 5 business days following project completion.***
2. ***By no later than December 31, 2014, Rutland shall submit a progress report to the Agency on the status of the Library Avenue Separation project. . .***

We have subsequently renamed the Library Avenue Separation project the “Northwest Neighborhood Sewer Separation Project – Phase 1,” which is a better description of the scope of the work.

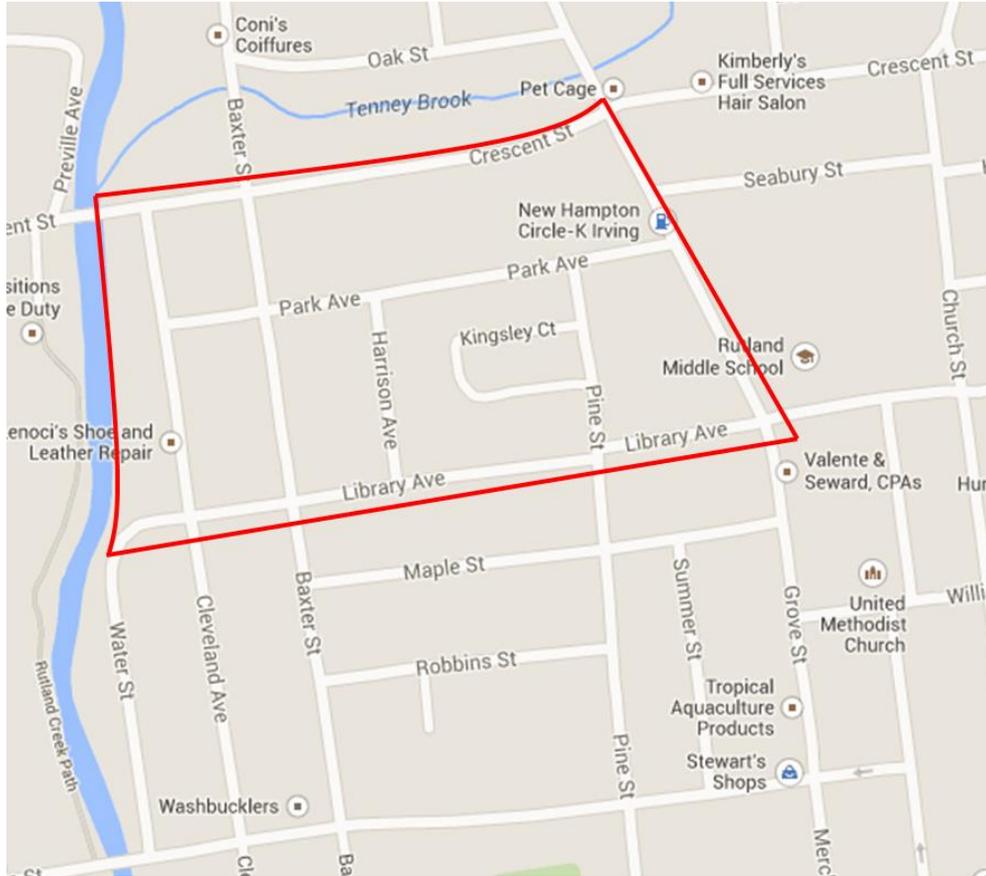
For the last several months DPW engineering staff have been working with Otter Creek Engineering and Hartigan to study the condition of the sewers in the area and finalize project plans and cost estimates. We anticipate the project will take 2 construction seasons to complete so construction must commence this summer to comply with the 1272 Order deadline of December 31, 2015.

The project involves the installation of a new storm sewer collection system, repairs to selected sanitary sewers, installation of new water and sewer service lines to a number of residences and businesses, installation of ‘swirl separator’ treatment systems at the storm sewer discharge points along East Creek, and the reconstruction of streets and related surface infrastructure work.

The project area is shown in the map and generally covers the rectangle bordered by East Creek on the West, Grove Street on the East, Crescent Street on the North and Library Avenue on the South.

In addition to reducing the incidence of CSOs from this area, project benefits include reduced hydraulic loading to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, improved drainage of stormwater, reduced neighborhood street flooding, sections of new streets and new curbs, restored green strips, and other surface infrastructure improvements. The project will also be able to accommodate stormwater from a larger area to the east of Grove Street, which is planned for a future separation project (Phase 2). As an additional related project, DPW plans to apply for funding to conduct a tree planting on public and private property throughout this neighborhood which will provide further water quality and aesthetic benefits.

The project is expected to cost \$5,200,000, with 25% expected to come from the state through a special CSO grant. The balance will require a City bond issue. Given the 1272 Order, the bond must be approved at the 2014 March Annual Meeting for the December 31, 2015 deadline to be met.



Northwest Neighborhood Sewer Separation Project – Phase 1 project area map.