

CITY OF MARINE ON ST. CROIX CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP  
Tuesday, November 13, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Mills at 6:00pm. Pardun, Miller, Anderson (6:26pm) and Roden present.

Citizens Present: Ryan Goodman, Jason Crotty

City Engineer, Ryan Goodman, reviewed the wastewater system capacity study. Phase 1 looked at the system and current capacities, and Phase 2 looked at I&I issues and potential new connections and connection fee. The number of potential new connections has been calculated at 45. This number is based upon a household of 2.3 people using 100 gallons of water per day. If larger homes were to be built with occupant numbers larger than 2.3, then the number of new connections would decrease.

In order to move forward with any improvements, the pumps for P1 (the main lift station) will need to be upgraded. The total cost of these upgrades will cost approximately \$424,000. The proposal would be for the existing users to pay for half of these costs, and the other half will be paid for by the new connections. In order to do this, the new connection fee has been increased from \$7500 to \$9400.

The current I&I also needs to be addressed. This I&I is happening partially due to the infrastructure failing and partially due to residents adding to the system via sump pumps, etc. The City owns all sewer tanks and piping to the road. If a new home is built, the homeowner is required to install the tank and connect to the system but then those become part of the public system. The tanks are required because the City drainfield does not accept solids, so the City is responsible for pumping the solids from those tanks.

Currently the drainfield is being maintained well and Goodman does not see it failing in the near future. Once the drainfield needs to be replaced, the City has the option to either bond for the money or take a government low interest loan.

Pardun noted there are at least three residents that have paid to connect to the system, but have not yet connected. There are also homes who currently have a mound system but have paid to have the City maintain those mounds. Then there are residents on St. Croix Trail, beginning with Linda Tibbets home, who have a private system located in between or next too residents connected to the City sewer. Pardun believes it would make sense for the City to connect all of those homes, which would add 12 new connections. Then there are homes on Robert Street, Chestnut, Elm and Judd Street that could also have potential new connections. So the question is does the City work to compel these residents to connect, which would require those spots to be "saved". Those parameters would change if the Council were to decide to lower the minimum lot size, which is a conversation the Council should have.

There is a home on St. Croix Trail who currently has a failing private system and would like to connect to the City system. In order to connect, a line would be run across Highway 95 and connect to a home currently on the City system and then extended to the failing system.

Anderson would like to make sure the City finds a good way to get this information to the residents. The next step is to figure out which residents have asked to connect in the past and were denied.

Miller moved and Roden seconded to adjourn at 7:45pm. Motion passed unanimously.