

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING JUNE 16, 2021

Present: Michael Strait, Jeanne Gervais, Heather McElroy, Brittany Goulet, Ralph Wilkins, Mark Vaillancourt, Jenny Auster from Hoyle and Tanner, Carmen Murray, Sylvia Dodge from The Chronicle, Joel Cope, and Teresa DeBonville.

Michael Strait called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM

Jenny Auster gave an overview of the projected project. The wastewater facility was built in 1977 and since that date no major upgrades have been done to the facility. Jenny informed everyone that these facilities normally last about 20 years max. Our facility has lasted for 44 years with no major problems; but it is now time to upgrade before such problems start to occur. This project will include a new headworks facility, a new aeration system, chlorine contact tanks and sludge removal from the lagoons. Pump station re-construction and upgraded operations building are also included, that are more energy efficient and safer for the operators and all of the equipment.

The bond vote held on June 16, 2021 by Australian ballot would allow the town to apply for grant funds if approved. If opposed, the town would not be eligible for these grant offers which could cover from as low as 30% of the project cost; up to 75% of the project cost. Even if the town authorizes to bond; this does not mean that we are committed to doing the project.

Carmen Murray asked what the interest would be on the loan amount. Jenny told her it could be as low as 1.375% or as high as 1.875%.

Carmen asked when the project would start. Jenny informed her the bids would be put out with an offer in August or September of 2021 with a beginning construction date of summer 2022.

Heather McElroy asked what would happen if the bond vote did not pass. Jenny informed everyone that the town could have another vote at a later date. What it really breaks down to is the town needs to do this; and the town needs to bond in order to get grant funding.

Carmen Murray asked if the vote passes who would be responsible for repayment of the funds. Jenny explained that it typically would be put on the sewer users, as this is where the project lies, but depending on where the funding comes from it could be put on the taxpayers.

Voting will be held at the town hall on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 from 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.