

CITY COUNCIL WORKSHOP
For the Wastewater Treatment Facility
Capacity Evaluation with Wright Pierce
March 21, 2016 - 6:00 P.M.

Councilors Pepin, Soldati, Dumont, Messier, Sprague, Cameron and Paradis were present. Witham entered at 6:12.

The Acting Mayor Soldati opened the workshop at 6:03pm.

Timothy Vadney, Senior Project Manager for Wright-Pierce gave a slideshow presentation on the City of Somersworth Wastewater Treatment Facility Capacity Evaluation. Presentation of slides is attached to these minutes.

In the presentation, Mr. Vadney explained that the Somersworth WWTF is at 96% of design BOD loadings; The DES has an 80% threshold. Activation of the second set of treatment tanks will require modification to the WWTF at a cost of approximately \$614,000.

Following the presentation, there was time for question and answer.

Councilor Dumont said lead has been in the news a lot lately, especially about Flint Michigan. He asked how lead could affect this. Mr. Vadney said that is more of a drinking water issue and Somersworth's numbers are good. If a property is tested and shows high lead, it is probably because of their plumbing.

Councilor Witham asked about the turnaround time once council commits to this project. Mr. Vadney said it would go out to bid, and would be completed in under a year. They would request bids to cover the whole project once with one contractor.

There was discussion about the threshold and what is required by the Department of Environmental Services. Councilor Witham said there is an 80% threshold with DES, but there is some wiggle room. DES wants to see some action. DES has jurisdiction over big developments, but can also slow residential growth. We are close to the threshold at this point. We could require established businesses to pre-treat, but that is not pro-business. If a large, new user wants to develop in Somersworth that would increase the load overnight.

Councilor Witham said the financing for this would come from the enterprise fund, but would we have to increase the rates as well.

Finance Director Scott Smith said it depends on what we do, and on the timing and impact. There may be a couple of projects being done at the same time, which could require a small adjustment in rates.

Councilor Witham said he would like to see what our rates are compared to other communities.

The workshop ended at 6:34pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Trish Harris, City Clerk