

WTMUA Information Report to Washington Twp. Committee

June 14, 2017

Wastewater

1. Schooley's Mountain Wastewater Plant – The Authority has received the permit renewal. The concern of new permit limits for phosphorus & nitrate limits have yet materialized. The DEP is studying nitrate limits. Depending on the nitrate limits, the existing wastewater processing system will have to be evaluated to determine if new limits can be met. The phosphorous limit is on hold until the DEP approves the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the Raritan Basin. Staff is conducting chemical testing to address reductions in the amount of phosphorus discharged.
2. Long Valley Village Wastewater Plant – The MUA has submitted its application to the DEP for the renewal permit. The process treatment at this facility is such that any proposed phosphorus & nitrate limits will be attainable. The plant is running at about 50% capacity and will be able to handle future development.
3. Also included in the high priority is the replacement of the RBC building at the plant. However before we can plan for the building replacement, the MUA needs to know what the future permit limits are and whether the existing treatment process can meet those limits and/or what additional treatment improvements will be required.
4. Inflow & Infiltration at the Schooley's Mountain Wastewater Treatment Plant - The Authority continues to address the infiltration of ground water into the sewer system, concentrating in the easements in Parkview, Buttonwood & Nestling Wood area. Staff is also investigating low lying areas adjacent to water courses.
5. The Authority is reviewing capital projects for sewer system improvements in the Schooley's Mountain System. High priority is the replacement of the Springtown Road Pump Station. The pump station currently handles approximately 70% of the daily flow to the plant. It is located in the flood zone and is subject to confined space entry.
6. Equipment Maintenance for both sewer systems – The Authority has increased its budget for maintenance & repair to address the replacement of pumps, motors and other equipment in these facilities.

Water

7. Schooley's Mountain Water System – The Authority is working on the DEP & Highlands approvals which are required for Smith Well (SM23). There are issues with impervious coverage & reforestation. Appraisals for easements have been prepared for the Cucinella School property & the property owner at 480 Naughtright Rd. Negotiations will begin shortly. The easements are for utilities & access.
8. High Ridge Standpipe – The Standpipe needs interior and exterior rehabilitation. The issue is completing all of this work while the standpipe is out of service for an extended period of time. The rehabilitation work cannot be started until the Smith Well (SM23) is on-line. The Authority has been investigating several alternatives including the construction of a new tank adjacent to the existing tank and the raising of the existing tank by 16 feet. Soil borings were completed in March of this year indicating that the

rock formation was fragmented. Additional information on the footing composition & depth is required before it can be determined if the tank can be raised. There is still a concern with having only the Naughtright tank in operation while the High Ridge Tank work is being done. The Authority is still looking for another tank location.

9. The Authority is looking at additional capital improvements to the water system.
 - Once the Smith Well is placed on line there is a need to improve the water flow to the Naughtright Standpipe. A transmission line from the Cucinella School driveway to the Naughtright Standpipe is proposed.
 - The Authority is looking at connection between the watermains on Ann Road and Spring Lane to improve pressure & fire flow.
 - A watermain extension from Melissa Trail to Spring Lane to improve the hydraulics in the Schooley's Mountain System is being proposed.
 - A transmission line from our office at 46 E Mill Road to the intersection of Schooley's Mountain Road & Fairview Avenue to improve hydraulics and to provide redundancy for the portion of the Hagar Water System north of the South Branch of the Raritan River.
10. Water Restrictions Schooley's Mountain Water System - When the Smith well is placed on-line, the DEP may allow the water restriction limits to be modified but most likely the restrictions will not be removed as water is a precious resource.
11. Leaks in the Hager & Schooley's Mountain Water System – The Authority continues to address locating & repairing of leaks. A watermain replacement project for Brookside Drive and a portion of North Washington Valley Blvd. was awarded. Construction is planned to start late June or early July. The capital budget calls for the future replacement of ACP watermain in the Capital Estates section of the Hagar system.
12. Equipment Maintenance & Upgrades for both water systems – The Authority has increased its budget for maintenance, repair & upgrades to address the replacement of pumps, motors and other equipment in these facilities.
13. Water Meter Replacements – The Authority has completed approximately 80% of the water meters in our two water systems.

Other Issues

1. Water Shut-Offs – The Authority has implemented its water shut-off policy which has reduced the number of delinquent customers.
2. Capital Spending – The Authority is investigate financial alternatives to pay for capital improvements. Currently approximately 33% of the budget is for debt reduction.
3. Service Agreements – The Authority has several agreements with the Township. The MUA would like to consider additional service agreements with the Township such as pavement repair & expanding lawn maintenance.
4. Reduced Sewer User Fees For Minimal Water Use – the Authority will be studying possible reductions in sewer user fees for those customers that use a minimal amount of water.