

Utility Meeting Minutes

2/18/26 6:30 PM

Jason Adelsberger, Roger Brake Cameron Brittenstein, Mike Hull, Becky Stewart
Gary Silcot (Via Zoom)

Sewer Plant Funding Discussion

Gary reviewed funding options for a proposed new sewer plant. The preliminary cost estimate is between \$7–10 million.

Potential Funding Sources

- **United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):**
The village could apply for \$2–4 million in funding.
- **Congressional Direct Spending (CDS) Request:**
The village could request up to \$4 million.
 - CDS applications are open until **April 1st**.
 - State funds up to \$200k

Both funding options require a **shovel-ready design**, estimated to cost up to **\$750,000**. If funding is awarded, the design cost could be rolled into the total construction cost.

Design Loan Consideration

Council must decide whether to proceed with obtaining a **design loan**.

Most loan programs allow **4–5 years**, at which point a balloon payment may be required if funds are not secured.

Project Timeline

Gary estimates the project would take approximately **4–5 years** to complete.

Federal Administrative Orders

Cameron asked whether federal administrative orders would help secure funding. Gary stated they would likely strengthen the village's case but would not guarantee funding.

Infrastructure Condition

Cameron reminded the group that:

- The sewer plant is **over 50 years old**.
- Its expected lifespan was **40–50 years**, meaning it has reached or exceeded its intended service life.
- Even without federal orders, significant investment is necessary.

Potential repair costs include:

- Electrical upgrades (~\$250,000)
- Pump repairs
- Cracking tanks

Cameron emphasized he does not want to see temporary “band-aid” fixes to the old plant, noting that substantial spending will be required either for major repairs or a new facility.

Water Utility Discussion

Water Deposits

Becky stated that current water deposits are **\$100**.

The group discussed how other utility companies handle deposit returns.

Roger asked whether deposits should be collected for rental properties now that accounts are in landlords' names.

Hickey and Hull agreed they would prefer to keep policies consistent.

The remaining question: **Should the village collect deposits on rental properties?**

Penny Shortage Discussion

Becky also discussed the upcoming penny shortage and its potential impact on village operations.

The group suggested rounding to the nearest nickel for audit purposes to address the issue

Meeting Concluded: 7:50 PM

Bj *Seattle* *M Hull* *R.B.* *11/12*