

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
June 13, 2022

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, June 13, 2022, at 5:30 P.M., by President Todd Angerman. Members present were John Alessia, Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka and John Yelkich. Councilman Shane Tucker arrived at 6:05 P.M. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland, and Police Chief Jim Woestman. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Long Term Control Plan Update - Town Manager Hendrix explained that the Town of Lowell has been on a Long Term Control Plan for the WWTP since 2004 from IDEM that Lowell is a combined sewer overflow community. He stated that we can overflow legally with no fines, but was given a 20 year agreed order to make improvements within our system. Mr. Hendrix said the wet weather treatment system and review of the interceptor lines was part of the plan, and another project the Town thought they had to address was the illegal sump pumps connected to our sewer systems considered combined sewers. Mr. Hendrix stated after speaking with IDEM and explaining how the plant actually works and how the wet weather Actiflow system is designed, they have agreed to release the Town from the agreed order. Mr. Hendrix stated without the agreed order we could be fined if there is an overflow, but there has not been an overflow since current administration is running plant. He stated the reporting is very time consuming and if there is a need to overflow they will use the Actiflow. Discussion followed. Council agreed we still have flooding in areas, and storm sewer projects need to be addressed. Mr. Hendrix stated that Joe Martin Road splits the water shed, and he said plans are to have the east side remain with their sump pumps combined, and the west side of Joe Martin we need to install storm sewers and disconnect illegal connections and that should alleviate some of the problems in that area. He stated the problems in Castlebrook are nuisance drains and will be addressed. Mr. Hendrix stated a future project to have the Actiflow re-piped will help with any overflows. He recommended we close out the current agreed order and look at a different philosophy of how to treat the flow at plant. Mr. Hendrix informed the Council the annual IDEM inspection at the Wastewater Treatment Plant incurred a fine of \$2975. The inspector noticed some small saplings had broken through the liner on the basin and we were fined. The problem was fixed immediately, and he didn't know if the Council wanted to fight the fine or admit to nothing and just pay it. Council agreed to send a list of future projects being addressed at plant with the payment of the fine. Council asked that the proposed Sewer Rate Ordinance be on the next work session for discussion and first reading at July meeting.

Employee Handbook Update and Employee Discussion - A meeting with the consultant will be held next week and then a draft will be sent to Council for review. Mr. Hendrix discussed three employees leaving in the last month and a discussion followed on the rate of pay and benefits provided compared to surrounding communities. It was suggested to develop a help wanted with the benefit package we provide to seek potential employees. Mr. Hendrix stated the Town may need to hire contractors until we get back to being fully staffed.

Water Sale Proceeds Investment RFI Update - Requests for Information from banking institutions for information related to the investments from the sale of the water proceeds are due on Wednesday, June 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Hendrix stated that Centier had said they were not interested because they did not want to disclose certain information, and he had not heard from any other banks. Attorney Westland stated if no responses are received then the Town will be able to meet with the institutions and tell them what you want.

Opioid Settlement Discussion - A Resolution will be acted on during the regular meeting that Lowell be part of the opioid settlement under Indiana Code. President Angerman stated you can do what ever you want with 20-30% of the funds, but the balance of the money will have to be spent for opioid addiction. Council will look into a grant program for schools or qualifying facilities.

Interlocal Agreement with Tri-School - The Interlocal Agreement between the Town of Lowell and Tri-Creek School Corporation for the extension of sanitary sewer to Lake Prairie School will be acted on during the regular meeting.

Engineering/Construction Projects Update -

Paving - Contractor is currently in Indian Heights on Cherokee and doing curb work on Driftwood.

Evergreen - Due to damage done to the parking lot at Evergreen Park during the water line construction project the credit giving by Grimmer of damage done will be used toward having the parking lot repaved.

Liberty Park - Mr. Hendrix stated that he had met with representatives from Dean & Barbara White Foundation and they are interested in communities that are investing into their community like we are with our AARP funds by extending the sewer line to Lake Prairie School. He stated he asked them for 3.7 million dollars toward the Liberty Park project.

Fire Station - Mr. Hendrix will be meeting with consultant next week.

Commercial Water Main - Grimmer is moving forward on the project. The Town repaired the pothole on Route 2.


Maintenance Facility - Mr. Hendrix stated they are narrowing down the architect's design punch list and should have final numbers of the cost in July.

Other topics -

Re-districting - President Angerman stated that each town must re-draw their districts or certify they are equal by end of year due to the Census. He stated Ward 1 is much larger than Ward 5 and he has some suggestions on how to make it more equal or the town could hire a consultant to complete.

Greg White asked for the census information and said he could download into GIS program to gather data. Council agreed they would rather it be done in house than hiring a consultant.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:57 P.M.

  
Todd Angerman, President

Attest:

  
Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer