

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
APRIL 25, 2022

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 25, 2022, at 6:05 P.M., by President Todd Angerman. Members present were John Alessia, Todd Angerman, Mike Gruszka, John Yelkich, and Shane Tucker. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland, Police Chief Jim Woestman, and GIS Director Greg White. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Lowell WWTP Improvements Project Update - Town Manager Craig Hendrix gave an update on the improvements at the Wastewater Treatment Plant that have been discussed for several months that both Lowell and Cedar Lake have committed one million a piece toward. The UV Disinfection System Replacement Project in the amount of \$324,607 has already been awarded to Austgen Equipment and the work has been delayed due to supply issues for electronic components of the system and will be ready for installation after the 2022 disinfection season ends October 31st. The Town has already issued a Change Order for the extension. The generator replacement has been awarded to Sweney Electric in the amount of \$202,012. The bid for the EQ Basins improvements included installation of a new drain back sewer required to convey sewage stored in the basin to the plant for treatment and automation of the diversion valves used to send incoming flow to the wet weather treatment facility. Two bids had been received for the project, with the lowest bid from Bowen Engineering at a cost of \$1,866,000, which is over the projected costs of \$1,395,000. Mr. Hendrix said the original intent of the project was to replace the 12-inch sewer with a new 16-inch gravity line, but due to its depth and the extensive dewatering that would have to be done to install it the costs of the new pipe is prohibitive at this time. He said there seems to be something block in the pipe, maybe solids that have accumulated over the years, and they are not able to get it out because they can't get the camera in the area to look. Discussion with Bowen Engineering, have proposed that in lieu of installing a new sewer, the existing 12-inch pipe could be rehabilitated to increase its capacity to the original design of 3 MGD. The work would include the installation of three clean outs for jetting of the pipe to remove settled debris, and televising it to verify its condition after rehabilitation. The line would then be evaluated after another rain event that causes the basin to be utilized and if capacity is adequate no further work would be necessary, if not other alternatives would be investigated. Bowen Engineering has provided a reduction in the costs of the improvements of \$471,000 bringing the base bid to \$1,395,000. Mr. Hendrix stated the plan is to award the original bid to Bowen Engineering, and then immediately issue a Change Order reduction to bring the bid to the \$1,395,000. He stated that way the project would not have to be re-bid. He also recommended the alternate bid in the amount of \$345,000 for non-potable water system placement be awarded also. The costs of all projects would be \$2,586,007, so each town would have to earmark additional funds for the project. Mr. Hendrix stated he has already spoken with Cedar Lake and they have approved the extra money needed for the project. He asked the Council to review to award at the next meeting

and will schedule a JMOB meeting before the next Council meeting. He stated that Bowen has held their numbers and hopes to have the project done by end of summer.

Manny Frausto Facade Grant Application - Mr. Hendrix stated that Mr. Frausto will be requesting a \$10,000 facade grant for windows during the Redevelopment Commission meeting. He stated that last year he had a grant and had not used all the funds, but was withdrawing his request for the \$5250 for tuckpointing. Mr. Hendrix recommended approval of the grant.


Building Renovation Grant Program - A discussion followed on the Building Renovation Grant Program that Mr. Hendrix is proposing that would allow business owners in the TIF District to apply for funds to help with major renovations. He stated the grant request amount could be anywhere from \$20,000-\$50,000 and would be determined by the Redevelopment Commission. The program would have stipulations for a time frame to complete the project and would not be available for flippers. The owner would have to commit to staying for a 3-5 year period otherwise the money would have to be paid back. He said Attorney Westland had proposed a forgivable mortgage. Council members discussed beginning with a \$20,000 matching grant and re-appropriating \$40,000 at this time and see if additional funds would be needed next year from TIF funds. Attorney Westland stated the Redevelopment Commission would have to pass a Resolution for the guidelines. Mr. Hendrix plans to have ready for the next Redevelopment Commission meeting.

President Angerman and Town Manager Hendrix will be meeting with Lake County Commissioner Jerry Tippy regarding the ARP funds for the sewer extension line to Lake Prairie School. Mr. Tippy has said the County can not give funds to another entity and Mr. Angerman said he informed him the project is in the county and possibly they could fund themselves, if they don't want to give the funds to Lowell. Councilman Christian Jorgenson will be at the regular meeting to give an update on the money so the project can move forward. Mr. Hendrix stated that he and Attorney Westland will begin working on the acquisition of easements for the project.

Councilman Yelkich spoke of the boil order issued by Indiana American Water last week and stated he was informed that their process is to call the customer and then they post the map on their website. Mr. Hendrix stated a contractor hit a line in the Spring Run Subdivision, and they issued a whole town boil order because they received low pressure complaints from the other side of town.

The letter that had been sent to the police commission member that had missed four consecutive meetings will be reviewed by Attorney Westland.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:44 P.M.


Todd Angerman, President

Attest:


Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer