

LOWELL TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
APRIL 10, 2023

A Work Session of the Lowell Town Council was called to order on Monday, April 10, 2023, at 5:30 P.M., by President Vice President Michael Gruszka. Members present were Michael Gruszka, John Alessia, John Yelkich, and Shane Tucker arrived at 6:12. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Judith Walters, Town Manager Craig Hendrix, Town Attorney David Westland, GIS Director Greg White, and Police Chief Jim Woestman and Fire Chief Chris Gamblin. Also present was one citizen. The purpose of the work session was general town business.

Discussion of priorities for Street Rehabilitation -

Mr. Hendrix gave an update on 2022-2 Community Crossing Grant that was awarded last week to Milestone Contractors in the amount of \$900,000.00, and also on CCG 2023-01 that had been submitted for Union Street, which will include curb, gutter, and sidewalks by bank. The CC grants are now 50/50 match. He reminded Council that he had applied for a Group 3 Funding for Washington and Mill Street and the town did not get selected. Mr. Hendrix asked the Council to prioritize what streets they will want to do with the funding for 2024-01, because if it is Washington Street they will need a consultant to design the street, which may take up to a year. Discussion followed on streets that need paving and the best way to use the one million dollar match from the state funding. He reminded Council on the current bond that will fall off at end of 2023 and a new bond can be used in its place to match the funding. Mr. Hendrix said his plans are to repair streets after American Water replace water mains. He suggested that Liberty Street and Washington Street, upto Liberty, be on the list for next year. He stated part of Oakley will be done when they do the West Side Sewer Project and said some of the streets in the downtown area could qualify being done with TIF funds. Discussion followed on possibility of putting grindings in Costas lot for additional parking.

136 W. Washington Street (Patricia's Dance) Update - Mr Hendrix, Building Administrator Tim Henke, and Park Recreation Director Cindy Hughes will meet with the owner and appraisal to review the property on Wednesday.

Freedom Trail Update - Mr. Hendrix stated the sidewalk project has been moved to the trail project and funding for the right of way has been moved from \$100,000 to \$350,000 and will begin in the 2024 fiscal year that begins July of 2023. He said the construction would be available in July of 2026 with work being done in 2027. Mr. Hendrix stated he has a conference call with INDOT this week and he heard they plan to hold another public hearing on the project. He will be reviewing the trial and updating the numbers and how the platted easement on Lafayette/Concord will link into the park.

WWTP Capital Project Update - Mr. Hendrix reviewed the WWTP Improvements and Expansion Design Project that had been discussed at the JMOB meeting that will increase the average flow from 4 million gallons per day to 6 million gallons per day with a peak of 10 million gallons per day. The improvements would be split into projects with Project #1 - EQ Basin Improvements - \$6,044,000; Project #2 - Headworks Improvements and Phosphorus Removal Modifications - \$257,000; Project #3 - Biosolids Dewatering Process Improvements - \$2,575,000; Project #4 - Aerobic Digester Improvements - \$2,943,000; Project #5 - Plant Capacity Increase, New Clarifiers and Effluent Pump Station and Laboratory/Building Improvements -

\$26,274,000, and Project #7 - New Sludge Thickener - \$1,792,000. Total of all projects costs of \$40,000,000 with potential funding sources from Stormwater Funds for Project #1, and funds on hand or a SRF low interest loan and possible funding from federal government. The project would be a 50/50 shared cost with Cedar Lake and would be done over seven year period. Mr. Hendrix stated he would like to get engineering started on designing the EQ Basin Improvements as it is part of the Agreed Order, and the liner is bad making it difficult to maintain and clean out the sludge. He stated that project was built into the current sanitary sewer rates, but not the rest of the projects. Mr. Hendrix spoke of the sanitary sewer exposed on Lincoln Street that is being replaced with a box culvert.

West Side Sewer Project - Mr. Hendrix stated the project being done with AARP federal funds has been designed, and they are ready to start acquiring easements and he will be setting up a meeting with Attorney Westland, the buyer and the appraiser. A public meeting will be held with the citizens in the area to explain the project. Mr. Hendrix said the easements acquired will include water and sewer and American Water will pay their fair cost of the acquisition.

No further discussion, the work session adjourned at 6:45 P.M.



Michael Gruszka, Vice President

Attest:


Judith Walters, Clerk-Treasurer