

Informational Meeting

October 27, 2020 @ 6:00 PM
Harrisville Firehall

Members Present: Ann Hall, Dora McIntosh, Paul Jackson, Jessica Jenack, Thomas Haynes DANC, Mike Tamblin, Charles Prior EDR, Carrie Tuttle DANC.

Water Issues

An agenda was handed out. EDR looked at the Town of Diana's water system (wells, distributions lines, old village lines). They looked at improvements for storage, dead end lines that needed to be looped, and putting in water meters.

They also took into consideration the contamination of wells in Pitcairn and looked at what it would take to serve those homes (Along Mill St, Rte 3 to 812, to the Garrison Road, and pick up Dollar General.)

The project has been submitted to Rural Development for funding for Diana (minimize cost to residents).

Carrie Tuttle said that there are 2 distinct projects - Diana and Pitcairn. She recalls in 2011, the Town of Pitcairn calling and asking DANC to help, Ann remembers this. The town of Diana needed to have a Preliminary engineering report to submit to Rural Development and Diana said they needed to also look at Pitcairn. Diana's project would not impact Pitcairn, schedule wise.

Paul looked at the engineering report and asked if they were doing the same thing with building tanks no matter what? The answer was yes. EDR can get impacts listed, work with DOT.

Process presented by Thomas Haynes

1. Public meeting with homeowners
2. Town would need to do preliminary report and map report. Funding is available. If Pitcairn wanted to proceed, let Tom know and he would contact Rural Development to search for grant funding. 75% of engineering costs to do the study are reimbursed when the application is made.
3. Put costs together
4. Conduct the Environmental Review
5. Pitcairn Board District formation
6. Town does Bond Resolution

On behalf of Sam, Dora said that Senator Griffo's Office still owed the town \$50,000. She asked if that was the same funding. Carrie said no, it was a different grant.

Dora said Sam had questions. If the town applied for a grant, would the town pay? Tom replied that Rural Development would pay for the preliminary engineering report. The report could be between \$10,000 and \$20,000 of which 75% is covered by Rural Development.

Carrie said she could not do anything without having the engineering report. If the system is engineered, Carrie said a public meeting would take place and everyone with contaminated wells would be invited. The district area would be drawn on a map based on the owners locations.

1. Have a public meeting
2. Decide what homes are in the district
3. Vote on permissive referendum (not town taxpayers) only those in the district
4. The only cost if the district does not move forward with the plan at a cost of \$20,000, would be \$5,000.
5. If other areas are further away, storage and pressure must fit together. Need to know what people want to be served by the district. Not feasible if located 3miles away.

Carrie said if 5 years from now, a homeowner wants to connect to the system, they would have to pay to be part of the district.

Mike reiterated that you do the study, set district, referendum, then design phase, then go after more funding.

Carrie said DOT should cover Rural Developments portion for the \$5,000. DOT is probably spending \$4,000 right now buying water for the homeowners.

Carrie said the report was sent to Steve Kokoras (looked at extending into Pitcairn). They are aware of it, and Paul said that was the same guy from 2012.

Paul asked about the referendum. Carrie said the vote is only for those in the district.

Carrie said that you do not need to have a contaminated well to be in the district.

Jessica asked about who owns the laterals - Carrie said it is better to take ownership to the foundation of the home (spread cost out, private homeowner does not need to repave).

Carrie said the engineering report is so because of the cost.

Dora asked about meters and said Diana is doing it. Carrie said the Town gets to decide about metering.

Jessica asked about meters (district will have a loan). Carrie said individual homes without meters use more water than those with meters.

Carrie said another good thing about meters is that an older/single person who uses less water versus a home with teenagers, pays less. old lady pays less. Meters are not a bad thing. Jessica added that meters help determine leaks and Carrie said that is a good thing.

Tom said Pitcairn would buy water from Diana with a contract and there is a formula to buy water. (point of having master meter)

Jessica asked how many wells were contaminated? Tom replied that 14 homes were contaminated based on DOH info. Ann asked if people had tested? They said yes (7 years ago).

Paul said he was only aware of 5 and Ann said she thought there were 6. Carrie said she could get a list from DOH.

Carrie said there may be homes not contained but they may still want to be a part of the district.

Paul said so items 1 through 5 on the agenda sheet would cost \$20,000.

#6 is the cost for the district (Bond Counsel)

The next step is for Pitcairn to ask for a proposal from the Development Authority and to assist EDR with the engineering report.

Paul asked who the contact person was. Carrie said it is Thomas Haynes and he lives in Gouverneur.

Paul said the landowners are not supportive. Carrie said the district would get a decent funding package - and then can go back to DOT to try to get the capital costs covered by them. First, you need to show there was an effort to get funding from other sources, then go back to NYSDOT.

Ann said this was an issue 15 years ago. Carrie said if DOT says no, then to call political representatives.

Carrie explained Diana's engineering report was just to know if Pitcairn is interested. Carrie said it does not need a motion.

Paul would like the 14 parcels before the next meeting.

Paul said to include Sliders and Dollar General.

Dora said no one comes to the meetings. Carrie said with such a small area, they will have a handout and bring it to their homes. Carrie said being a small district is simple and easy.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM