The Town Board of the Town of Trenton held a Public Hearing at the Trenton Municipal Center, 8520 Old Poland Road, Barneveld, New York. Supervisor Godfrey called the hearing to order at 7:04 pm. Present were: Councilmen Michael Bennison, Eric Taylor, Chris Crumb, Jim Farr and Town Clerk, Rachel Bunker.

Public Hearing called to order at 7:04 pm by Supervisor Stephen Godfrey.

Back in 2023 the Town Board adopted the Barneveld/Mapledale Sewer District at a cost of approximately $25 million. Tonight's hearing is to amend the adopted district to an approximate cost not to exceed $30 million because the prices keep escalating. Everything else in the plan is staying the same. Time frame is set out to 2029.

Bernier, Carr & Associates, (BCA) has been helping with the applications for grant money. We are looking at the Water Infrastructure Improvement Plan (WIIP) as well as Water Quality Improvement Plan (WQIP). We are hoping to gain a considerable amount of money through the grant procedure. Godfrey wants everyone to keep in mind the advantages of a water treatment plan.

The engineers from BCA, Makenzie Lehman, Amanda Malmin and Cory Reid were there to present the project.

Cory advised the only difference from when they were here last year is that the project cost went up. It will be years to get multiple funding, and for design and bidding. So they want to make sure the budget will be good for 2029. The one thing that didn't change was user cost.

Amanda gave little bit of project history and advised it dates back to before 1981 when there was a survey done by DEC. Back in 1981 50% of the village of Barneveld was surveyed and 26% of those lots surveyed were actually confirmed or were strongly suggested to have wastewater issues. From then on, there were several studies done to support the project. In 2003 and 2004 there were 2 different surveys sent out and both were over 70% in favor of a sewer project in the area.

Makenzie said to run through the current study that they did, they started with the need for the project and why a new sewer district should be formed in the area. A few things play into that, especially looking at the hamlet of Barneveld, soil type, small lot sizes are all things that do not play well into onsite septic systems. Those are reasons why onsite septic systems have not been efficient in the hamlet. Having a public sewer system would allow for future growth and development so that would be another reason to support having the sewer district in the area.

In the scope of the project for the Hamlet of Barneveld and the Mapledale Commercial District we looked at primarily doing gravity collection where possible. In some places quantity would not allow or lend well to gravity collection. In those cases we do have some select pump stations which convey the sewer flows. To wrap up the scope we looked at sewer laterals to the road right of way. Some important things that we noticed in our findings, the DEC previously completed stream testing of the Cincinnati Creek and they found evidence of pathogens in the creek. So that is a potential water quality issue that we are looking to remedy with this project where the new system would serve Barneveld and Mapledale and the waste would be conveyed to a brand new wastewater treatment plant. Based on the anticipated flows we would be getting from the new district, as well as leaving room for future expansion, it seems like Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) technology would be the best fit for this site.

Cory said one thing he wants to add is that when DEC did the sampling of the Cincinnati Creek in 2001 and 2006 some of what they tested for came up pretty high in coliform and fecal coliform. Typically if you look at a lot of beaches and swimming areas that have numbers over 200, they will close those down for contact usage. Fecal coliform by itself is not harmful but it hangs on with other stuff that can be detrimental that can cause gastrointestinal issues.

Taking a look at the area that was studied, the Hamlet of Barneveld as well as the commercial district of Mapledale, the red line outlines the boundaries of the proposed new district.

Potential grants/funding sources that BCA believes the town would qualify for include: USA Rural Development which offers grants and loans, NYS Environmental Facilities Corp. (EFC), Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA), Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP), Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU).

The current district EDU is 521, 336 are residential, 164, commercial and 21 are vacant.
State Comptroller – Threshold 2024 is currently $656 which is a lower threshold than what they are showing. Because of that they would need Comptroller approval.

The estimated cost is a total of $29,980,000

Potential	WQIP grant	$5,000,000
"	WIIA grant	9,990,000
"	USDA	2,805,000
"	CDBG	1,250,000
"	Loans	10,935,000

The loan would be 0% interest for 30 years which gives an annual debt service of about $364,500. Broken out over those 521 EDUs, gives an annual debt service of $700 or $58.00 per month per EDU. Annual operation and maintenance fees (O&M) would be another $280 or $24.00 per month and that bring us to our first year annual cost of $980 or $82.00 per month. This would be for 30 years. If the sewer district were to bring in more business, that would lower the cost for everyone.

Question Period:

What is the life span of the project? Cory advised the plan is concrete walls. Mechanical components would need to be replaced but typically the bond resolution looks at items that are going to be 40 year term. Some plants have deferred maintenance and they don't last very long. Concrete can definitely last 50+ years. Maintenance costs are part of the estimate.

What about any other assessments and what about the vacant EDU's. Everyone is responsible for the debt. No home – ½ EDU responsible.

Once constructed how do other EDU's join? Cory advised the town would have to establish a Sewer Use Law that would have a section about outside users and either an extra charge for them or if you get enough outside users, you can form another district.

How many extra users would the system allow? It will allow for expansion of the sewer plant. He believes it's 20 or 25%.

Is the treatment plant easy to upgrade for more capacity? Yes. They have done other Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) plants where there are 2 basins, and if you leave room, you can build a third basin. At the original site, they have requested enough room to make sure they plan for growth capacity.

What about the sanitary surveys and volunteers to test the septic systems. How many will they have to do and how difficult will it be? They have not received guidance from DEC. It sounds like they will not give guidance before the applications go live. BCA has found some technology that will help the application. If someone volunteers to have their system tested and it is impacting the stream, DEC does not need to know that address of that. Simple dye test.

There was a question about high streets and low streets. Will there be extra costs? There will probably be some individuals who will ask to have their laterals placed. If funding allows, perhaps the town can buy some grinder pumps for these individuals to hand over.

Another question about the SBR – Cory explained that the basins can all be in a different mode of operation. All run by computer. There are 4 hour spans for all the modes. You can adjust processing time manually or by the control panel.

State Pollution Elimination System (SPDES) permit.

John Sherman pointed out that there is a survey that's going to be going around. The main thing is that this is going to be an expensive system and we want to get some help. We have been ranked on how much money we can get. One of the things we really don't have is specific data on systems and the funding agencies have asked for that. If we have some failing systems in the village, that will give us a few more points for funding and grants.

Cory advised that all the projects in NYS are submitted and funding has to go through them and they get scored. When DEC did the testing it was suspect on septic or agriculture. We want to show that either it's agricultural or onsite septics. If it is septics affecting the water quality you get an additional 20 points which is huge.

Who does the diagnostic? Mackenzie advised they would prefer a third party like a town water operator. We are waiting to hear back from DEC on whether they have a preference. They do not want engineers to do the testing. Licensed home inspectors do it all the time.

Question about the amount of gallons – 120,000 per day coming in. The same amount goes out into the Cincinnati . Where the site is, it drops off quite a bit so there will be an outfall pipe. When you enter the stream there is a diffuser. They have gotten preliminary limits from DEC about what they want to see, but once they get funding in place they can actually apply for permit standards.

The water coming out is supposed to be as clean as the receiving water. Cincinnati is a class CT water body. Class C water's use is best for fishing. You can have primary and secondary contact (swimming and boating) but they look at that classification and they want the water going in there to be the same standard as the water going through. Every plant in NYS is required to have disinfection – UV, Chlorine. It all depends on the standards.

Back to the surveys, the high number was 79% approval. The 21% disapproval – Farr is not anticipating 100% of the people are going to want to hook into this. Is there a threshold there or margin? Mackenzie said

the survey is more to identify issues. It is not to get interest. Once the district has been formed even if they don't want to hook up, they still have to pay the debt.

Hearing Adjourned 7:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel I. Bunker
Town Clerk