

Council Agenda Report

Date: July 11, 2016

Prepared and Submitted by: Oden C. Wheeler Jr., Director DPW

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SUBJECT: Oak Hill Sewer Service

Recommendation: That Council:

A: Authorize the payment of \$93,000 to the Dorchester County Sanitary District from City of Cambridge Impact Fund account to purchase low pressure force mains, and grinder pumps, that are currently owned and maintained by the Sanitary District for 17 Oak Hill properties;

B. Direct the City Attorney to prepare an agreement and authorize the Acting Mayor and City Manager to execute the agreement which has been approved as to form by the City Attorney and as to content by the City Manager.

C: Appropriate \$330,000 (\$237,000 for construction + \$93,000) from the City of Cambridge Impact Fund account to cover the equipment purchase from the Sanitary District, and complete construction for all 28 Oak Hill residents.

Discussion:

The City of Cambridge annexed 28 residential/commercial properties in the area between Route 50 and Bucktown Road in 2004, which are referred to as the Oak Hill properties. The annexation occurred in part because some of these properties were not part of the Dorchester County Sanitary District, and were experiencing septic and/or well water failures. The Oak Hill annexation also served to complete the Dorchester County Airport and Tech Park annexation by providing the necessary properties to develop a contiguous city limit border that includes the Dorchester County Airport and the Tech Park.

Seventeen of Oak Hill properties currently receive sewer service from the Sanitary District. Therefore, the most cost-effective method to provide sewer service to all of the properties would be to acquire the low pressure sewer mains and grinder pumps that already exist from the Sanitary District, and to install new equipment for the remaining residents. The force main connector from Route 16 to Oak Hill Road was installed last year by the City and MUC has installed the water mains. This project represents the final phase of the larger project to provide water and sewer service to the annexed properties.

Fiscal Impact:

The total cost to complete this project is estimated to be \$330,000 as presented above. Currently there is approximately \$726,342.20 in the City of Cambridge Impact Fund account. Pursuant to the annexation agreement, the properties are eligible for discounted property taxes until the City has completed the installation of water and sewer service. Once this project is complete the discounted property taxes will increase from 40% to 100% which will increase revenues by approx. \$44,000 in FY 2018.

Approved By: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager 