

Council Agenda Report

Date: November 14, 2016

Prepared by: George W. Hyde, PE, City Engineer

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

SUBJECT: Award of Contract- Oak Hill Area Sewer Connections

Recommendation: That Council:

- A. Award the contract for the Oak Hill Sewer Connections to Barkers Landing Excavation for the amount of \$104,312.35;
- B. Allow the Dept. of Public Works to purchase E-One grinder pumping stations and control panels directly from the local distributor at a cost of approximately \$80,000;
- C. Request a recommendation from MUC for connecting properties in the Oak Hill area on private wells to the public water system.

Discussion:

For several years, the City has been working with the Dorchester County Sanitary Commission to determine a cost-effective means of providing public sewer to ten (10) residences in the Oak Hill area that were annexed into the City in 2004 but are still on septic systems. In July of this year, the City Council agreed to purchase existing sewer infrastructure from the Sanitary Commission, at a cost of \$93,000, which will facilitate connecting these 10 properties. This infrastructure currently serves 17 properties in the City that are currently part of the Sanitary District. Also in July, Council appropriated \$330,000 from impact fee funds to cover the \$93,000 cost of purchasing the infrastructure from the Sanitary Commission, plus the cost of connecting the 10 properties and upgrading the existing pumping stations purchased from the Sanitary Commission.

In order to connect the 10 properties currently on septic systems, approximately 2,200 feet of additional 2" & 1¼" sewer force main lines will need to be placed and an E-One grinder pumping station installed on each of the properties. Also, existing septic systems will need to be properly abandoned. In order to minimize costs, DPW is looking to purchase the pumping stations and control panels directly from the distributor and hire a contractor to do the installation and other related work. A bid package for the work was prepared and a request for bids was advertised in the newspaper and placed on the City's website. Three (3) contractors came in and picked up the bid package, however we received only one bid. That was from Barker's Landing Excavation in the amount of \$104,312.35. Based on our original estimates, we feel this is a good bid and it is within the budgeted amount for this work. This contractor also recently completed work for the City on the Gateway project at the corner of Route 50 and Maryland Avenue.

While we are connecting the remaining Oak Hill area properties within the City to public sewer, there should also be consideration given to connecting the properties currently served by private wells to City water. A recommended plan and schedule should be developed by MUC.

Fiscal Impact:

The costs for this contract and purchase of the pumping stations will come from the \$330,000 the Council appropriated from the impact fee fund during the meeting of July 11, 2016. Once connected to the City sewer system, each property will pay a minimum sewer service fee of \$25.20 per month. In addition, once sewer and water service has been provided, each property will be subject to 100% City property taxes instead of the 40% rate currently assessed. This equates to a total of approximately \$32,860 in additional revenue per year.

Approved by: Sandra Tripp-Jones, City Manager 