

City of Harlowton  
Phase IV Water Project Public Hearing  
June 27, 2017 6:30pm  
Harlowton Public Library Conference Room

Joel Pilcher of Great West Engineering, Inc. facilitated the public hearing.

The purpose of the hearing was to inform the public of the phase 4 water system upgrade funding opportunities and impact to the users of the utility systems in Harlowton and to give the public an opportunity to ask questions or give comments on the proposed project.

Joel gave information regarding the possible funding from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and requirements of the grant. \$450,000 is being applied for through this grant. Harlowton is eligible to apply for this grant as there is an approximate 57.3% low and moderate income population in the town. This grant requires a 25% match.

A public needs assessment hearing was held on June 13, 2017. The water system upgrade was identified as the city's current top priority.

An updated preliminary engineering report has been completed. There is still approximately 15,500 lineal feet of cast iron water main to be replaced. This phase of the water project is broken into to sub-phases. Sub-phase A would replace about 3,850 lineal feet of cast iron water main. This sub-phase would encompass 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW and the streets that go south off of that main road and a small area on 5<sup>th</sup> Street NW with an estimated cost of \$1,503,000. If funding allowed sub-phase B would also be worked on which encompasses 1,100 lineal feet on Central Avenue with an estimated cost of \$480,000.

The City of Harlowton has received a TSEP grant of \$750,000. The City was unsuccessful in obtaining a DNRC grant of \$125,000. There would be \$783,000 of funding available through SRF; of which one half would be a grant (\$391,500). With this funding in place it is estimated the monthly increase to users' water rates would increase \$3.71 per month.

The City has also been granted another WRDA grant of \$300,000. Those fund could be used to expand the project to complete more lineal feet of cast iron water main replacement.

As all work for this phase of the water project are within the city's right of ways it has been deemed there is no significant environmental impact expected. A more intense environmental assessment process will not be necessary.

The CDBG grant is due July 14, 2017 and the City should expect to find out if the application was successful sometime in the fall of 2017.

John Anderson asked why would the city need to increase their utility rates if it already meets the target rate. Joel clarified that the target rate is only for determining eligibility to apply for the grants. The city would need to increase the rate in order to meet the additional debt requirements.

Jeff asked why is sub-phase A so much more expensive per lineal foot than sub-phase B. Sub-phase A would be more costly per lineal foot as there are about 6 block on a state highway; which has much more stringent construction requirements (products, traffic control, etc.).

John asked if the city or state would be responsible for repairing the highway portion of the project. Joel indicated it would be the city's responsibility.

John asked where the water main lines would be getting placed. Joel indicated the water main on the highway would be along the north side of the curb in an area of 6-8 feet wide and would cross 2<sup>nd</sup> Street NW in about 5 places.

Bob Jones asked why couldn't the water mains be placed on the south side of the highway so the crossings wouldn't have such an impact. It was indicated that the sewer mains run on the south side of the highway.

Phase V of the water project would hopefully replace another 5,000 lineal feet of cast iron water mains.

Ductile pipe has been used within the DEQ Mager Well Lust Trust study area and probably would continue to be used there even though in previous phases it ended up not being required.

Joel Pilcher concluded the meeting with stating he was hopeful there is a good chance of the city being successful in receiving CDBG funding for this phase.

With no further questions the public hearing was adjourned at 6:56 pm.

Elected Officials Present:

Jeff Sell, Jim Kalitowski, Paul Otten, Bryan Tomlinson, Bob Jones, John Anderson

Employees Present:

Ian Reed, Kathie Newland

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Jeff Sell, Mayor

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Kathie Newland, Clerk