



TO: Record

FROM: Eric Lindman, P.E.
Director of Public Works & Utilities

DATE: March 4, 2020

SUBJECT: PIM for DWTF & WWTF 2-26-2020 Questions and Responses

- 1. How many trucks will go to the Drinking Water Treatment Facility DWTF?**
 - a. The Drinking Water Treatment Facility (DWTF) typically receives 7 deliveries per month.
- 2. Where is the current DWTF?**
 - a. East side of the river, just north of Bridge Street on North River Drive
- 3. What will the lighting at the new DWTF be and how will it affect the neighborhood?**
 - a. Paved areas will be lit around the building. Lighting will be “dark sky” compliant and will be directed downward. All lighting will be LED equipped with programmable automatic dimmers to reduce light during the evening hours when the plant is not staffed.
- 4. Will grading at the DWTF site remove the existing berms?**
 - a. Yes, the site will be graded and landscaped.
- 5. The proposed storm water pond for the DWTF, is this part of the river backwaters?**
 - a. The storm water pond is NOT part of the backwaters of the river, the existing bay is several hundred feet away to the east.
- 6. Will there be fencing on the DWTF site and where will it be located?**
 - a. Fencing at the site will be limited to the area of the retaining wall on the west side.
- 7. Where is the big pit/old quarry in relation to the proposed DWTF site?**
 - a. The old Hanz pit is directly north of the DWTF project site.
- 8. Where will the access to the proposed DWTF site be located?**
 - a. The access driveway to the new site will be north of Campus Drive off of Burek Ave.

- 9. What is the happening with the properties east of the proposed DWTF project site?**
 - a. This property is currently for sale by a private owner. The utility has not been contacted by the owner related to these properties.

- 10. Homeowner just south of the proposed access road requested landscaping and separation from this driveway. Will the access road be paved? Homeowner wants to make sure that she will have some privacy.**
 - a. The engineering team will work with the owner to prepare a landscaping plan as part of the proposed project.

- 11. With the history of the work that was done near this site, is there ground contamination?**
 - a. The utility completed a Phase I Environmental Assessment of the property when it was purchased which showed no reason for further investigation as there was no evidence of any contamination sources. The Soil borings and test pits indicated that there might be some areas of building waste and fill that will need to be removed and compacted and no evidence of a hazardous nature.

- 12. Are you going to rebuild East Campus Drive, which is a truck road now?**
 - a. No plans right now to rebuild that street. Trucks will use designated truck route.

- 13. Are there any proposed plans for the development of the property to the north of the DWTF project site? Are there any future plans for this property?**
 - a. Prior to the utility owning this property a private developer prepared a plat map showing this to be redeveloped as single family homes. The utility has no plans for redevelopment of this property currently. The property is currently still under a mining permit and the property will need to be “reclaimed” before any development were to take place. Reclaiming the property will require extensive grading and filling and restoration. The utility plans to do this over time. The property is also now in the Village of Maine, there is no urgency to have it developed as there would be no tax benefit for the City. The utility purchased the property to protect the well head area and groundwater, 5 of the 6 City wells are located in this area.

- 14. With regard to Burek Avenue, can the above ground utility lines be buried? WPS has come in and replaced power poles and left the old poles that are unsightly.**
 - a. Burying overhead lines would be considered during a street reconstruction project and we would coordinate this with the various utilities. Currently Burek Ave is not on our 5-year reconstruction list but it is on our list for asphalt overlay. The City has contacted WPS about having the old poles removed asap, we have not received a timeline for this to be completed.

- 15. Will Bugbee Avenue be redone? Bugbee was scheduled to be redone but was postponed. Residents would appreciate replacement of the street because it’s in tough shape.**
 - a. Not as part of the project. Bugbee Ave is on our 5-year reconstruction plan, this road is proposed for 2023 depending on funding availability at that time.

- 16. How much of the City’s water main has been lined?**
 - a. About 1/3 mile (1,800 feet). The City has not performed a lot of water main lining. We do line sanitary sewer mains every year. The utility has typical annual budget of \$300,000 – \$400,000 to complete sewer main lining of pipes.

- 17. Is there a danger with the new water treatment facility and treated water being more corrosive to the lead arterials in the City?**
- a. NO! The new treatment facility will provide enhanced corrosion control, further reducing any risks. The City performed an 18-month pilot study to ensure improved water quality will be provided with the new facility.
- 18. Can we assume East Campus Drive will be the main traffic construction route?**
- a. YES. Campus Drive is currently the truck route and during different phases of the project construction traffic will be heavier. The construction timeframe will be summer 2020 through fall of 2022.
- 19. Will water quality change?**
- a. The overall water quality will be improved and will have enhanced disinfection and corrosion control for safety.
- 20. Any impacts to private wells in the area?**
- a. No, excavations will be shallow, similar to digging basement foundations – no new wells to be constructed.
- 21. We were told renewable energy will be part of the project, was renewable energy bid as part of the project?**
- a. Solar on the building became cost prohibitive due to the additional structural components required for the roof. It was also determined that it would be in the best interest of the utility to look at renewable energy as a separate standalone contract. We are currently looking at ground mounted solar installation on a certain area of the old mining property to the north.
- 22. MREA representative at the Sustainability Committee advised contacting soliciting proposals from 5 or 6 companies in Wisconsin that do solar panels.**
- a. Since the PIM we have reached out several companies to host a meeting and a site visit this spring to determine the best locations for potential solar. The utility will be hiring an engineering firm to help properly design a system and manage the installation.
- 23. Campus Drive was reconstructed to handle truck traffic about 12 years ago but the City of Wausau trucks are using it and then they go to Burek Avenue. Burek has been neglected.**
- a. Burek Ave is on our asphalt overlay schedule. It was proposed to be completed in 2019 but was delayed due to this project. This remains on the list and will be completed in 2022 once the majority of the project is completed.
- 24. What is a clearwell?**
- a. The clearwell is a below ground concrete water storage tank that stores water after it is treated by the treatment facility. The water from the clearwell is disinfected and pumped to the distribution system. The current clearwell is 1-million gallons.
- 25. After two years of heavy truck traffic on East Campus Drive will the road will be reassessed?**
- a. Yes. We will reevaluate Campus Drive once the project is completed to determine if the road surface will need any additional maintenance.

- 26. Monk property on the northwest corner of Campus Drive and Burek Ave, has allowed the neighbors to use the property for walking. Are there any plans for that property?**
- a. The utility has had no interest in this property and no plans have been discussed with the City. The property is outside of the City of Wausau.
- 27. First quarter water bills are coming out next week? Will rate increases be in effect with those bills? What is the timing for rate increases?**
- a. No. The last water rate increase was implemented August 2019. The next water rate increase is expected to take effect in the summer of 2020 as will be determined by the PSC. The next increase is expected to be about 29% for water this summer. PSC typically allows increase about annually.
- 28. Can the City modify the implementation of sewer rates to help offset increase the water rates?**
- a. Yes, The PSC sets the rates for water so we are subject to their timeline. The City controls the sewer rates and timeline for approval. When implementing the sewer rate increases we will present offsetting timelines to the Wausau Waterworks Commission so both rate increases are not imposed at the same time.
- 29. Are the neighboring municipalities that use the City's services locked into taking services?**
- a. The City of Wausau accepts sewage from Schofield and the City of Wausau provides water to the area previously known as the Village of Brokaw. Schofield's rates for treatment of their sewage will increase the same as the residents of Wausau. The water provided to the previous Village of Brokaw is sold at a wholesale rate and this rate is set by the PSC, it is hopeful the PSC will increase the wholesale rate as well.