

Proceedings of the Ironwood City Commission Work Session

A Work Session with the Ironwood City Commission to discuss the bids and funding status for the Gogebic-Iron County Wastewater Authority Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project funded by State of Michigan's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) Program took place on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 5:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers of the Ironwood Memorial Building, 213 S. Marquette Street, Ironwood, MI 49938.

PRESENT: Commissioners Andresen, Korpela, Mildren, Semo, and Mayor Corcoran.

ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: City Manager Paul Anderson, City Clerk Jen Jacobson, Public Safety Director Andrew DiGiorgio, Utility Manager Bob Tervonen, and Jeff Wasley, Manager of Gogebic-Iron County Wastewater Authority.

Jeff Wasley, Manager of the Gogebic-Iron County Wastewater Authority, was present and provided an update on the bids received and the funding options for the GIWA Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Project. Mr. Wasley informed the Commission that the bids were approximately \$10.9 million dollars over the projected budget. The GIWA will pay off the current Bond in 2024, which would help offset some of the monthly rate increase needed.

Mr. Wasley reviewed the timeline back to 2015 when the GIWA initially received the Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater Grant (SAW Grant) through the funding received today. A Project funding gap analysis was shared with the Commission with proposed rate increases, depending on what the GIWA Board decision is to proceed forward with the project. Mr. Wasley feels there are still additional items that can be removed from the Bid to help lower the Project Cost. Without any additional items being removed and if the Project does move forward, the possible monthly rate increase would be around \$3.85 per user per month.

Commissioner Mildren asked about the impact to the City and the current rates.

City Manager Paul Anderson, who also sits on the GIWA Board, explained that the City is committed to paying for the Engineering Costs occurred to date for the GIWA Project as an agreement was signed for that cost share in February 2023. He further explained that he felt the City Commission should be aware of the Project Funding status as there may be potential sewer rate increases that would impact our residents.

Jeff indicated as he learns new information, he will keep the City Representatives and Commission apprised of the changes.

No action took place.

The work session adjourned at 5:26 P.M.

Jennifer Jacobson, City Clerk