

City of Portsmouth

Department of Public Works



MEMORANDUM

TO: Karen Conard, City Manager

FROM: Terry Desmarais, City Engineer
Zachary Cronin, Assistant City Engineer

CC: Suzanne Woodland, Deputy City Attorney
Peter Rice, Director of Public Works
Brian Goetz, Deputy Director of Public Works

DATE: September 27, 2021

SUBJECT: Report Back on Sagamore Creek Sewer Extension Project

A report back on the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project was requested at the September 20, 2021 City Council meeting.

The City of Portsmouth received bids for the Sagamore Avenue Sewer Extension Project on August 12, 2021. Two contractors placed bids for the work. The lowest bid for the work of installing the main line pressure sewer in the roadway ("base bid") was in the amount of \$5,150,000. With construction engineering and oversight the cost for this work would be approximately \$5,923,000. This cost exceeds the remaining funds available from the City's funding authorization of \$4.4 million on July 15, 2019 (authorized as part of the "Loan of up to Seven Million One Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$7,145,000.00) for Costs related to Annual Sewer Line Replacements, Consent Decree Mitigation, Pleasant Street Sewers, and Maplewood Avenue Area Reconstruction"). As a result, the bids have been rejected and the bid package will be reconfigured and re-bid so that the base bid work will be in budget. The new base bid will include the work to install the main line sewer in the project area north of Sagamore Creek (Walker Bungalow Rd, Shaw Rd, Cliff Rd, and portions of Sagamore Avenue). It is anticipated that updated prices will be received in January 2022. In addition to the base bid, updated prices will be obtained for the main line sewer south of Sagamore Creek (Sagamore Grove, portions of Sagamore Avenue and portions of Wentworth House Rd) and for the proposed work on private property giving the City Council the opportunity to identify additional funding.

The following answers the specific questions requested in the report back:

What were the results of the core sample testing?

Borings and probes were conducted as part of the design process to determine the location of the ledge below the surface. The ledge depth varied throughout the project area. These boring results were provided to bidders and results are available in the bid documents online.

Have the results of testing changed the cost of the project?

Information from the borings and probes was used to develop the quantities of ledge to be removed and was included in the contractors bid prices received. The project cost estimate was adjusted during the course of design but the project overall costs were within budget prior to receiving bids in September 2021.

Current count of residents opting to participate?

Sixty three (approximately 70%) of the properties participated in a site visit to determine a design to connect their property to the sewer. An accurate number of residents opting to connect cannot be determined at this time. Residents will decide whether to opt into the project after the City Council votes on a cost apportionment.

Current cost estimate of the project?

Please see the current estimate on project cost above.

Current cost estimate per resident count for those residents opting in?

An estimate of cost per resident has not been determined at this time. There are significant differences in the layout and needs of each property that drastically affect the price. New bids will be received and values for each property that requested a design can be determined.

Are there any changes in the process or progress of this project that the residents & Council should be made aware of?

Please see above for progress and updates on the project.