

January 26, 2022, Town of Twin Bridges Public Meeting – Levee Feasibility Study (Twin Bridges School Multi-Purpose Gym)

Council Members in attendance were Scott Holbrook, Matt Greemore, and Jordan High. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer Kristi Millhouse and Maintenance Supervisor Sam Novich.

Guests: Jeremiah Theys and Brent Pilon (Great West Engineering), Mark Stonebraker, Lela Wendt, Beverlee Poore, Hoyt Walker, Monty High, David Smith, Justin High, Clyde and Pat Carroll, Jessie Broksle, Steven Millhouse, Lori Harshbarger, Jeff Mills, Thad Kaiser, Kevin Pearce, Wade Young and Robert Lancaster.

Meeting started at 7:00 pm. Jeremiah Theys started the meeting with an explanation of the feasibility study and why it was done. Currently the levee that is along the river is just an embankment, because it is not certified by the Army Corps of Engineers (Corp). The levee was started in 1957 with construction South of Highway 41. The Corp had come to the Town of Twin Bridges to help get the levee certified, but the property owners did not want easements and so the project by the Corp was stopped. The remainder of the levee was then built by someone else following the Corp's designs but not built to their standard.

In spring of 2018 DNRC (Department of Natural Resources & Conservation) and FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agent) studied the rivers causing an additional sixty-one properties for a total of eighty and an additional ninety structures. The Town did a feasibility study for the levee so they could find out what needed to be done to get the levee certified. The Town is concerned about the impact of the new flood map on the community (how it will impact those that will have to carry flood insurance and flooding to the Town's water and sewer system). The project will cost approximately \$4,400,000. There are different funding options available to the Town. The Town would probably look at funding from FEMA first. FEMA would pay seventy-five percent of the project and the Town paying the remaining twenty-five percent. The twenty-five percent can be obtained through other grants and loans.

Jeremiah Theys and Brent Pilon gave a description of the project and what would need to be done to levee to have it certified. There are approximately eight different items that need to be done to it. The installation of freeboard, closure structures, embankment protection (wrip-wrap), seepage study, emergency preparedness plan and a maintenance plan.

Jordan High asked what would happen if we did nothing to the levee. If the Town does nothing there is the potential for flooding, potential to loss of new home buyers, devaluation of property and extra costs of flood insurance.

Clyde Carroll asked if a property owner does not want to sign an easement will it stop the project. Yes, it will.

Mark Stonebraker asked what would happen if the project went over budget? There is a contingency of 30% built into the project costs for that reason, but if it went higher than that then the Town would be responsible for that cost.

Hoyt Walker asked what happens if the areas that have walls rust what would happen. The wall is designed with an extra thickness and the life expectancy is forever. If the Town is spending \$4,400,000 then we want to create something that lasts. Operations and Maintenance is ongoing which is the reason the Town would need an easement from the property owners.

Additional discussion occurred and questions were asked and answered by the engineers of Great West Engineer.

Meeting ended at 9:00 pm.

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