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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TOWN WASTEWATER PLANNING, CAPITAL PROGRAM & CAPACITY

April 12, 2021

The Select Board want to state unequivocally that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection is keenly aware of and part of the town's effort on matters concerning Wastewater. The Select Board has complete confidence in our wastewater management and staff and their ability to continue carrying out the wastewater program of the Town.

The Tisbury Select Board also want to set the record straight concerning the Town's wastewater planning, capital program and capacity.

The Town has existing capacity for potential users that request increased flow allocation. This available capacity is restricted due to the limited gallons available and should be sufficient to meet anticipated requests while the town completes its capital permitting and construction of upgraded treatment and leaching capacity for the Wastewater System. The Select Board gives carefully scrutinize the assignment of flow allocation for any request on a case-by-case basis. These decisions are made in conjunction with recommendations from the Sewer Advisory Board.

Over the last few years, the Town of Tisbury has made a significant investment in capital improvements to the Wastewater Plant and System to expand wastewater treatment and leaching capacity upgrading equipment and technology improving plant efficiency and plant operations. This multi-year effort will increase treatment capacity by more than 40%. The specific improvements completed to date are as follows.

- Addition of a centrifuge to increase the process capacity.
- Upgrade of the final process unit, filters, to increase the plant's hydraulic capacity.
- Worked with MassDEP on the Plant's pending permit renewal to increase the leaching field capacity without incurring any construction costs.
- Replacement of the primary process equipment, called headworks, upgrade of plant process controls, and improvements to the building systems, all of which are compatible with pending expansion plans.

Capital improvements that are nearing completion of construction include the project below.

- The Headworks project is wrapping up and all improvements are online. This project was funded through USDA-RD. We are awaiting a final walk-through with the agency and represent an investment of over \$996,000.

The Select Board in the very near future will be applying for a USDA-RD funding application for construction of the WWTF Upgrade project (to get to 140,000 gpd). This project is expected to be bid in mid/late 2021, with construction completed by mid/late 2023. The Town is also considering funding sources such as MassWorks.

Equally important to the treatment capacity improvements is leaching capacity expansion. In lieu of spending millions of dollars for the so-called WICK system technology, the Town has opted to seek increased leaching capacity for the town's existing leaching beds at a tremendous cost savings to the taxpayer.

On a parallel track the Select Board have been instrumental in bringing on-line new technologies for nitrogen reducing on-site wastewater system. These so called Nitroe Systems were developed with our technology partner through a MASSCEC grant. The initial success of these systems both in nitrogen reduction and for affordability are to be piloted on a larger scale.

The above capital investment plan will meet current and future wastewater needs; further the efforts to protect the town's watersheds; and strategically position Tisbury in the development of a Town Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

In reference to potential improper connections the current Wastewater Superintendent has been inspecting buildings that are connected to the system to make certain that there are no improper connections. He has also worked with the Sewer Advisory Board to establish a new fee structure and establish a draft of regulations to be adopted by the town. These new regulations add enforcement criteria that do not exist currently. Also, a new software system is being put into place that mirrors that used by the Tisbury Water Department and will correct any billing inconsistencies.

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