

**TO:** Mayor Angelo and Members of the Board of Trustees  
**FROM:** Aaron Caplan, Director of Utilities & Engineering  
**DATE:** 16 June 2021  
**ITEM:** Utility Update

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ORDINANCE  
 MOTION / RESOLUTION  
 INFORMATION

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### Capital Improvements Projects

Longs Peak Drive Sewer & Water Line replacement is going out for bid this week. There is a public meeting Tuesday June 22<sup>nd</sup> to get public input. We are looking to add some form of turnaround at the end of Longs Peak Drive. This was not originally in the project scope. It would seem like an appropriate time to get this done. We have received cost estimates on a few alternatives ranging from \$41,000 for a 'Y' style turn around to \$150,000 for a full cul-de-sac meeting International Fire Code standards. We are looking to see if we can find funding for this additional work. The 2021 budget included funding for this entire project from the water and sewer fund. We have since been awarded a DOLA grant for \$450,000 of the project. If no other funding source is found for the addition of a turn-around, could the water and sewer fund cover this additional work? There is an exhibit showing turn-around options.

We also had a design and estimate put together to add the undergrounding of the electric lines that supply electricity up to Longs Peak Drive which was not in the original project scope. On Longs Peak Drive itself the electric lines are underground. They are aerial going up the side of the hill from Seward Alley where they then go underground. The last pole where the lines go underground was the location of a fire last year, I believe from a burned squirrel falling to the ground. Since these lines are over grasses and a hill side there is greater fire danger. It also appears this pole was incorrectly placed on private property and not the town ROW or easement. Putting these lines underground and removing the pole would eliminate this concern also. The road will be opened for the new sewer and water and at the very least putting in conduit to prepare for putting the electric lines underground should be done. The electric fund did have \$50,000 set aside for capital improvements in 2021. The estimate for Longs Peak work is \$75,000. There is an exhibit that includes the section of line that would be removed. We would be working to remove two sections of line even though this exhibit mentions one of the spans is to remain.

### Wastewater

#### Permit Update

The wastewater treatment facility was connected to the new outfall pipe that discharges into the St Vrain Creek below the Highland Diversion Structure on June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are now operating under our new general permit and our individual permit is terminated effective July 1, 2021. We are working to close out the violation concerns on copper from the old individual permit. There is a Permit Update file with the certification and fact sheet for the new permit as well as termination of the old permit and correspondence to close out violation concerns.

#### Concerns of Sewer Break in Seward Alley

The sewer main at this location is about 15 feet below the road. The previous video of the line from 2018 did not show any breaks or joint concerns. There have been four visits to the area, from multiple staff and our wastewater contractor and none of them showed a smell or any indication of sewage in the puddle that has been a concern. The sewage operator was very confident this was not coming from the sewer main 15 feet

below the road. We did notice a strong odor from the garbage dumpster, and we also noticed puddles underneath the dumpster. There does also appear to be wet ground coming from the trailer nearest the puddle of concern. This could be a customer sewer service issue or maybe a water line is leaking and the odor is from the dumpster.

#### Sewer Back Up on Welch Ct.

We do have a sewer line along Welch Ct. and 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. that has backed up twice in less than two months. We have had the line videoed and it does show a sag (or depression) in the line. We have more video being done on the rest of the lines in the area to look for any other possible issues and will then put together a scope of work to get bids for repairs.

#### BOD Levels

On a positive note, the average Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels at the wastewater facility continue to remain under 400 pounds per day. 250 pounds per day is considered the average for residential wastewater. In 2019 we had been seeing averages of 700 to 900 pounds per day.

### **Water**

#### Bohn Park Irrigation

The town has worked with Longmont and the state to be able to use raw water rights for irrigating Bohn Park from the South St. Vrain. A 6" water line and meter were also installed in case there was a need to use potable water for irrigation if the raw water was not available. This spring when the town was ready to begin irrigating with raw water we had, and continue to have, run off from the fire affected areas making the water in the South St. Vrain Creek unusable. Using the water in this state would destroy the pump equipment. The town therefore does have a need to use potable water currently for irrigation. We are not sure what had previously been planned for a 6" water meter about water rights dedications and service connection fees for Longmont. The cost of these would be very expensive. In continued discussions with Longmont they have advised we can change out this 6" water meter for a 2" meter even though it is on a 6" line. This will bring the water rights dedications and service connection fees for Longmont down to a much more reasonable level. We are working to get a new 2" meter and swap the 6" meter for this 2" meter.

#### C-BT Water Shares Portfolio Review

This leads to a review of the towns water rights. As most of the trustees are aware this is a complicated topic. Focusing on Colorado Big Thompson (C-BT) water shares review we now have 20.2 C-BT shares that the town owns and that do not currently need to be dedicated to Longmont each year. We have eight remaining Flood Damaged Property (FDP) allocations that can be used for water rights and service connections without a fee as long as the town does not make a profit on using these allocations.

We have also found that after the flood there were three properties where the town did not remove water services to be placed in the FDP allocations. These are three active service connections that belong to the Town and only one of them is being used. The one being used is at 104 5<sup>th</sup> street on property with an agreement with the Rocky Mountain Botanic Gardens. The other two are 233 Park, at the corner of Park and 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 111 Park, next to the Black Bear Hole. These are two active taps that are not being used. We have talked to Longmont and they were okay if the Town wanted to change the locations where these two active taps were used.

The two active taps could be used for two additional opportunities for leasing FDP or buy out properties with no additional cost or documentation to the town. These are already fully accounted for in our annual Water determination with Longmont. The Town could use 6 of the 8 FDP allocations that we have for the new 2" water meter in Bohn Park. This would leave two FDP allocations that could be used for a 1" water service connection to facilities for Black Bear Hole. We would then have our 20.2 C-BT shares. We would want to have five for any of the remaining properties in town that are considered pre-existing commitments and do not need to bring the town any water rights. That would leave 15 C-BT shares for projects where the Town felt they wanted to assist the project by waiving the water rights dedication requirements. Projects like affordable housing could still have water rights dedications waived and the town would have a C-BT share available to dedicate to Longmont.

## **Electric**

The remaining 40 new electric meters that are needed to finish the electric meter project are now scheduled for delivery in August because of the delays in production affecting many industries.

The electric and communication lines along 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave South of Railroad are now underground. We have one less area of concern about overhead utility lines causing fires and getting damaged by falling branches. The area around the bridge had been an area where these issues happened with more frequency than many other parts of town.