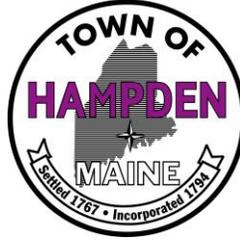


Town of Hampden
106 Western Avenue
Hampden, Maine 04444



Phone: (207) 862-3034
Fax: (207) 862-5067
Email:
townmanager@hampdenmaine.gov

April 2018

RE: Information regarding June Borrowing Authorization Ballot Question

Dear Hampden Sewer Customer,

This sewer bill insert provides information regarding the proposed borrowing question that will appear on the Town of Hampden ballot for the **election on Tuesday, June 12, 2018.**

A well-functioning sewer system is one of those things that people may not notice, but a system that is not working properly can quickly become an emergency that is obvious to all. For that reason, maintenance of developing problems is essential.

In addition to the Town Council special election, there is another vote on June 12th that will have a major effect on the Town of Hampden. The Town recently had portions of our sewer system surveyed by closed-circuit TV, and the pictures revealed major issues that need to be addressed. Due to the age and materials of the sewer pipe – clay pipe, in some locations – tree roots or other foreign objects have compromised the integrity of the pipes and caused meaningful damage.



Still image from CCTV footage provides an example of root infiltration of sewer main.

This type of damage contributes to inflow and infiltration, which allows non-sewage (such as groundwater) to get into the system. Inflow/infiltration results in a less efficient system, which translates into more costly sewer treatment. Greater volumes of discharge arriving at the Wastewater Treatment Plant – even if that volume results from groundwater, not sewage – result in larger bills for treatment! If severe enough, it can also cause sewage back-ups in the system and street manholes to overflow.

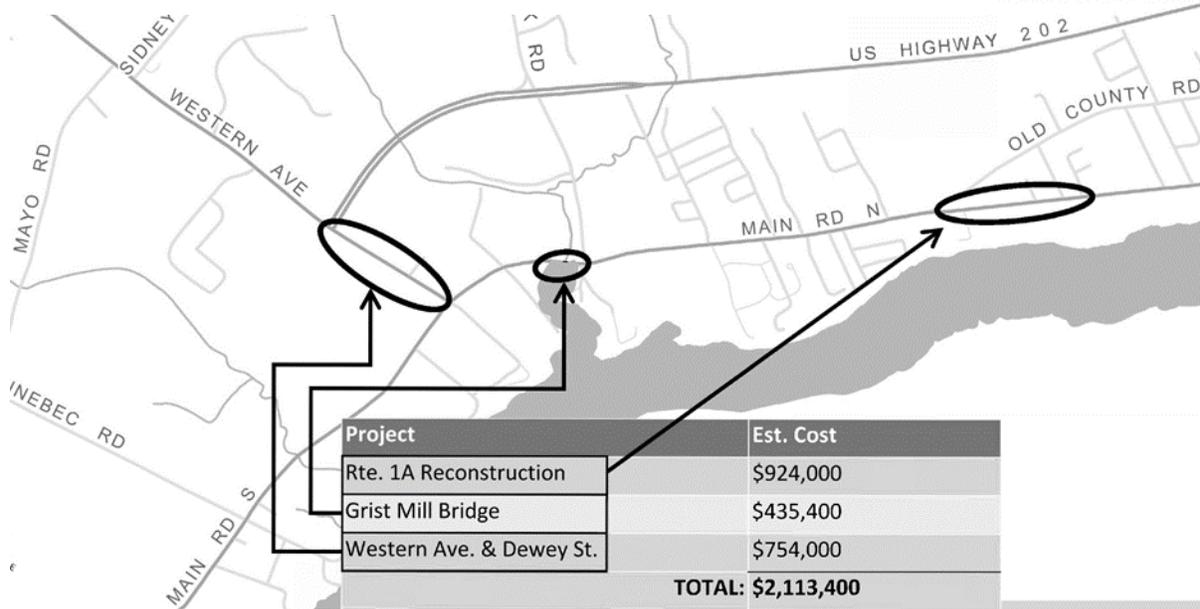
In total, borrowing authorization is proposed for three projects:

1. Route 1A, between Old County Road and Mountainview
2. Grist Mill Bridge (gravity main and force main replacement)
3. Western Ave. between Rte. 1A and Rte. 202 (including Dewey Street)

The Town Council proposes to pay debt service for the Rte. 1A and Western Ave. projects (about \$100,000/year) from sewer revenues. The replacement of sewer mains in the Grist Mill Bridge is only needed because the bridge itself is scheduled to be rebuilt by MDOT, not because of a deficiency in the sewer infrastructure. Therefore the Town Council proposes to pay the debt service (about \$25,000/year) for the bridge work from the General Fund.

More information can be found at:
www.hampdenmaine.gov/sewer

Location and Cost of Proposed Sewer Capital Improvements



There is some good news! The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) will be doing work in these locations starting next year, and this offers the opportunity to take on the sewer projects at a cost savings. This presents us the opportunity to get these repairs taken care of, while at the same time minimizing the cost (and disruption) to users of these roads.

Also, because the Sewer Fund paid off a 20-year bond earlier this year, the estimated debt service on the new borrowing for the sewer projects can be built into the budget **without increasing the sewer debt service budget from the current year**. In other words, no sewer rate increase will be proposed as a result of taking on these projects.

The Route 1A and Grist Mill Bridge projects will invite bids from contractors next winter, with construction beginning in spring 2019. **Approval of the proposed ballot question will allow the Town to keep pace with the construction schedule, realize cost savings by incorporating the work into the larger MDOT construction contract, and prevent these areas from having to be dug up twice at even greater expense.**

Thank you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact the Town Office with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Angus Jennings
Town Manager

More information can be found at:
www.hampdenmaine.gov/sewer