



Agenda Abstract

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Meeting Date: Feb. 23, 2026
Department: Utilities
Agenda Section: Consent
Public hearing: No
Date of public hearing: N/A

PRESENTER/INFORMATION CONTACT

Utilities Director K. Marie Strandwitz, PE

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED

Subject: Water Treatment Plant Improvements – Disinfection System USDA-RD Obligation

Attachments:

Resolution to designate authorized representatives and agree to local match/additional funds

Summary:

The town received a Fiscal Year 2026 Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS)/Community Project Funding (CPF) obligation under USDA's Rural Development Water & Environmental Programs (WEP) in the amount of \$1,000,000 as requested by Representative Valerie Foushee. The project entails design and construction of a new water disinfection system with an estimated combined cost of \$1,965,600 that will utilize sodium hypochlorite, which is a more common and risk-adverse method of potable water disinfection, instead of the current chlorine gas disinfection system. To formally apply for the obligation, we need to authorize representatives and agree to the local match requirement and any additional funds above the obligation as the initial step.

Financial impacts:

A grant award of \$1,000,000 will reduce the town's estimated design and construction cost to slightly less than \$1,000,000. There will be long-term operational cost changes to chemical costs as sodium hypochlorite is more expensive than chlorine gas, yet it is a safer method of disinfection for staff and the community and less risk of shortages than chlorine gas. The project is supported by emergency response teams.

Staff recommendation and comments:

Action requested:

Approve the resolution to begin the application process.