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FOUNDED DECEMBER 15, 1727  
CHARTERED JANUARY 1, 1991

## TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

# STAFF REPORT

**DATE:** August 8, 2022

**TITLE:** Huber Thickener Project

**PREPARED BY:** Sean T. Greig

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S COMMENTS – RECOMMENDATION:**

[The Town Administrator will review the proposal and comment on the resolution]

**BACKGROUND:** On August 18, 2021, the Town Council approved the purchase of a Huber Thickener for \$199,172.00 and a project construction cost of \$418,000. The anticipated equipment delivery and construction was expected take place in the Spring of 2022. The project was expected to have an 8 to 10 year payback with the following benefits:

- 1.) Improved sludge dryness 3 to 4 percent.
- 2.) Decrease polymer, water, and electricity usage.
- 3.) Decrease in hauling and disposal costs.
- 4.) Increased sludge storage capacity.
- 5.) Decreased run times on Huber Screw press extending equipment life.
- 6.) Reduction in odors.

Due to COVID the equipment will arrive the second week of August. In addition, construction costs have increased dramatically. The Department has secured 30% American Rescue Plan Act Fund (ARPA) Grant Funds from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for the Thickener Project. The following is a breakdown of Town Council approved Thickener Project budget with the monies to come from the Sewer Capital Reserve Funds (\$418,000.00) versus the increased Thickener Project costs with ARPA funds.

	Thickener Project	
	Approved Costs	With ARPA Grant
Construction	\$330,000	\$430,000
Contingency	\$30,000	\$30,000
Construction and Oversight	\$58,000	\$82,000
ARPA Application & Design		\$30,000

Bidding Package		\$15,000
Materials Testing	\$500	\$1,000
Total Estimated Project Costs	\$418,500	\$588,000
ARPA Grant	\$0.00	\$170,400
Total Estimated Construction Project Costs	<b>\$418,500</b>	<b>\$417,600</b>
Total Construction Savings With ARPA Grant	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$900</b>

  

Huber Equipment	\$199,172	\$199,172
ARPA Grant	\$0.00	\$59,752
Total Equipment Costs	<b>\$199,172</b>	<b>\$139,420</b>
Total Equipment Savings With ARPA Grant	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$59,752</b>

  

Total Project Costs	<b>\$617,672</b>	<b>\$551,020</b>
Total ARPA Savings	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$60,652</b>

I am requesting that the Town Council approve a Thickener Project Construction budget of \$588,000.00 with \$170,400 from ARPA funds and \$417,600.00 from Sewer Department Capital Reserve Funds. I request that the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreements with Wright-Pierce to perform the necessary engineering services and to secure the ARPA funds for the Thickener Project. I will present the contractor bids with a recommendation for the Town Council's review and approval after the bidding process is complete.

**DISCUSSION:** Does the Town Council want to approve a Thickener Project Construction budget of \$588,000.00 with \$170,400 from ARPA funds and \$417,600.00 from Sewer Department Capital Reserve funds. Does the Town Council want to authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreements with Wright-Pierce to perform the necessary engineering services and to secure the ARPA funds for the Thickener Project.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The ARPA Grant will reduce Thickener Project costs by \$60,652.00. The grant will reduce the project payback to less than the previous estimate of 8 to 10 years.

**RECOMMENDATION:** I recommend the Town council approve a Thickener Project Construction budget of \$588,000.00 with \$170,400 from ARPA funds and \$417,600.00 from Sewer Department Capital Reserve funds. I recommend the Town Council authorize the Town Manager to enter into agreements with Wright-Pierce to perform the necessary engineering services and to secure the ARPA funds for the Thickener Project.