

CITY OF BARRE

WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY – HEADWORKS UPGRADE

BOND VOTE INFORMATION

When is the public information meeting?

PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

City Council Chambers
6 N. Main St. Barre, VT 05641
Monday, October 28, 2024 @ 6:15 p.m.

When is the bond vote?

BOND VOTE – AUSTRALIAN BALLOT

Municipal Auditorium on Auditorium Hill
Polling place of their respective ward
Tuesday, November 5, 2024
7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

What is the project?

At the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF), the project includes the construction of a new headworks to provide preliminary treatment.

Why is it necessary, how much will it cost, and how will it be paid for?

The existing headworks was installed in 1970, with some equipment replaced in the early 1990s. The equipment is all at least 30 years old and past its expected lifespan, as wastewater treatment equipment is typically expected to last 20-25 years.

Critical equipment failure due to age could be harmful to public and environmental health, as the WWTF treats wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial sources from the City of Barre and portions of the Town of Barre, and discharges to the Stevens Branch.

Of the estimated \$9.3-million cost, an estimated \$3,600,000 will be funded from the State of Vermont and USDA with grants and subsidy. **However, voters must approve the bond to access these grant funds.**



Current Headworks



Proposed Location for New Headworks Building

What is included in the headworks upgrade?

- Demolition of the existing headworks equipment, including asbestos and lead paint abatement.
- Construction of a new 40-foot by 50-foot building to house the process, mechanical, and electrical equipment.
- New process equipment, including: multi-rake screen with solids washer, vortex grit removal system, and grit washer.

Why is the new headworks needed?

- The existing headworks equipment is all past its useful life, and failure could present serious impacts on public and environmental health.
- Without preliminary screening of the wastewater, damage occurs to downstream equipment, leading to more extensive repairs and high costs for emergency equipment replacement.

What is the project cost and bond amount?

Estimated Costs

Item Description	Estimated Cost
Construction	\$7,190,000
Construction Contingency	\$360,000
Technical Services	\$1,457,000
Material Testing	\$54,000
Legal/Administration	\$144,000
Financing	\$92,000
Estimated Total Project Cost	\$9,297,000
Total Bond Amount	\$7,600,000

Total Project Cost includes: construction, construction contingency, engineering, legal, short term interest, and other costs.

What is the project schedule?

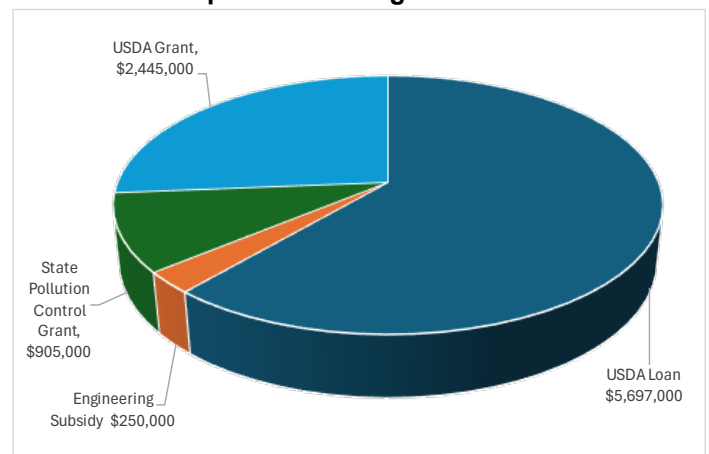
Projected Date	Task
2024	November 5 Bond Vote Begin Final Design and Permitting
2025	May 90% Design Submittal
	July Bid Phase
	September Begin Construction
2026	December Construction Completed

What are the available funding sources?

The State Water Investment Division will provide up to \$250,000 in engineering subsidy, and a minimum 10% State Pollution Control Grant is estimated at \$905,000. Total savings from the State are approximately \$1,155,000.

The City plans to submit for additional funding through USDA/Rural Development and is eligible for up to a 75% grant and subsidized interest rate of 2.375% on the 30-year loan. Estimated grant amount is \$2,445,000.

Expected Funding Sources



What is the projected impact on the current Sewer Rates?

The annual loan payment based on a 30-year loan term will be approximately \$268,000. A portion of this loan (27.7%) will be paid by the Town of Barre.

The debt retirement for the proposed wastewater project will be paid by the sewer system customers only.

Starting in 2026 to pay the debt retirement, the increase in the sewer bills is projected at:

- For a low flow customer (15,000 gpy), \$3.72 per quarter.
- For an average flow customer (53,000 gpy), \$12.96 per quarter (\$4.31 per month).