

Local Ballot Questions

Question #3: WWTF Incinerator Upgrade and Wastewater Facilities Plan

“Shall the Borough of Naugatuck appropriate \$12,430,000 for the cost of the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) Incinerator Upgrades and Wastewater Facilities Plan, including, but not limited to, the construction of upgrades, as well as engineering and all related costs and authorize the issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$12,430,000 or so much as may be necessary after receiving grants or other funds available therefor to finance such appropriation?”

Background Information

WWTF Incinerator Upgrade

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has enacted new emission guidelines for all sewage sludge incineration units in the United States in order to reduce risks to human health from the consumption of fish containing mercury. The new standards require immediate improvements to the sludge incinerators to maintain compliance. The estimated cost of the emissions upgrades and ancillary improvements at the WWTF to maintain compliance is estimated at approximately \$11,510,000. Operation of the incinerator provides significant revenue generation and financial incentive to the Borough. If these improvements are not undertaken and the incinerator operations are ceased, it is estimated that to cost the Borough approximately \$3.4 Million/year in lost revenue and additional cost for sludge disposal.

Wastewater Facilities Plan

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CTDEEP) has also recently issued the Borough a new wastewater discharge (NPDES) permit. The new NPDES permit requires the completion of a comprehensive Wastewater Facilities Plan to examine the WWTF treatment processes and performance of the collection system. The cost to complete the Facilities Plan is approximately \$920,000. The Facilities Plan has been approved for 55% grant reimbursement from the CTDEEP through the Clean Water Fund.

The improvements and study are mandated by the EPA and CTDEEP and the Borough desires to finance the improvements by the issuance of bonds and notes in the amount of \$12,430,000. The Borough believes that this approach is the most prudent manner in which to finance the state and federal mandates. The government mandate from the Federal Register dated March 21, 2011 as well as more detailed information relating to the costs of the project can be viewed at the Borough of Naugatuck Website @ www.naugatuck-ct.gov.