

# Bristol-WarrenPatch

## Not Enough Money to Fix Water Street Sewer

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By: Alex Martel

During the Tuesday night Warren Town Council meeting, the council scheduled a special meeting for August 17 at 6 p.m., to address the issue of the Water Street Sewer Project. According to town officials, the project currently lacks the proper funds to be completed as originally laid out.

"We do not have enough money to do the project as it was originally spec'd," said Warren Town Manager Richard Paduch.

The project, as originally planned, would entail the replacement of two sewer lines on Water Street. Paduch stated he inquired with the Department of Environmental Management as to funds and there were none available to the town, and after considerable negotiations with bidder for the project, there just wasn't enough.

The town of Warren was notified that the storm water and sewer project had been approved for a \$2,000,000 loan from the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency on November 12, 2010. But Paduch says the loan is not enough to cover the costs. He said in theory, the town could increase the amount of money it is borrowing from the Clean Water Finance Agency, but it would be too time consuming and would eliminate any opportunity to do the project before the end of the current "building season."

Council Chairman David Frerichs said the problem was "serious" with the sewer lines. Councilman Scott Lial elaborated, stating "we have what amounts to a three foot diameter flower pot collecting sewage and leeching into the river."

Councilman Lial spoke to the duration the town has been dealing with the leaking sewage, stating "it's been happening just about my entire lifetime, it seems."

But Paduch downplayed the significance of the issue.

"I don't think, and the plant operator doesn't think, and actually, the sewer engineer doesn't think that the problem is as bad... as it was thought to be in the past," Paduch said. Paduch stated the sewage leak was a contributory cause, but not the determining factor in beach closures in the past.

He also commented that he was not worried about significant leakage, stating that he doubted Councilman Frerichs was correct when he mentioned he believed a previous study had found exfiltration as high as 50 percent.

He went on to propose slip-lining the two pipes, stating it would "probably halve the cost."

Councilman Lial rejected the notion that slip-lining was a solution.

"We've gone over [slip-lining] before; the whole reason it wasn't done again was that it was not a permanent fix and we're going to run into the same issue again down the road."

Portions of the sewer lines have been slip-lined in the past and there has been no clear consensus as to the effectiveness of the original fix.

Lial continued. "I... think Warren will not be a destination point if our town beach is full of E. coli."

Paduch stated he doubted the town would receive a "competent bid" if they did decide to re-bid. The issue will be continued to the special meeting on August 17.