

Wastewater Advisory Committee Update and Recommendation

I want to begin with an update on the **remaining grant funding** from the previous Wastewater Committee's work with Hoyle Tanner.

- We have confirmed that **\$95,195.56 remains in the grant.**
- We do not yet know exactly when those funds will be available to the Town or how all of the money may be used.
- The funding deadline has been extended to **December 2027**, and we understand another extension is unlikely.
- We have also learned from the State that the remaining funds may be divided into different categories, meaning that not all \$95,000 may be available for engineering services.
- We have asked **Josh Karp to work with Lynette Claudon at the State** to provide a complete breakdown so we can determine how the funds can best be used.

Engineering RFQ Process

With Selectboard approval, the Committee issued an **RFQ in May** seeking wastewater engineering firms.

Our RFQ intentionally focused on what we learned from the earlier effort to develop a large, approximately 30,000-gallon-per-day Village system. Rather than repeat that approach, we asked firms to help us investigate **smaller, decentralized or modular solutions.**

Our priorities included:

- Focusing first on the **Village**, where we believe the immediate need is greatest.
- Identifying potential sites on both public and private land.
- Exploring a series of smaller systems rather than relying on one large disposal site.
- Considering both conventional septic approaches and **newer technologies that might reduce land requirements or increase capacity.**
- Looking at whether existing systems might be expanded or improved to serve additional businesses or residences.
- Helping us develop strategies for engaging property owners and other stakeholders.

We did **not** identify a specific engineering budget in the RFQ because, at the time, we did not know how much funding remained.

Proposals Received

We received responses from two highly qualified firms:

- **Aldrich & Elliott Engineers**
- **Otter Creek Engineering**

Aldrich & Elliott initially included a scope and fee with its response. We subsequently asked Otter Creek to provide the same.

The proposals were quite different:

- **Aldrich & Elliott:** approximately **\$24,000**
- **Otter Creek:** **\$46,215**, plus up to **\$38,145 in additional services**, for a potential total of approximately **\$84,360**

Because the scopes were different, we determined that it would not be appropriate to make a recommendation based simply on price.

Instead, we evaluated the firms based on their:

- Qualifications and relevant experience.
- Experience working with small Vermont and Northeast Kingdom communities.
- Understanding of Greensboro and its wastewater history.
- Responsiveness to the specific goals outlined in our RFQ.
- Ability to help us move from **finding viable sites to an implementable solution.**

Committee Recommendation

After reviewing both firms and conducting a weighted comparison, the Committee recommends that the Selectboard authorize us to **move forward with Aldrich & Elliott** toward development of a final scope and proposal.

Our recommendation is based particularly on:

- Their strong reputation and experience in the Northeast Kingdom.
- Their work with communities facing similar wastewater challenges.
- Their emphasis on determining **where smaller decentralized systems can actually work before advancing a particular solution.**
- Their proposed approach of initially evaluating approximately **12 potential sites**, narrowing those to approximately **six for field investigation**, including preliminary soil evaluation.

Given Greensboro's previous difficulty locating a viable site for a large system, we believe this site-first approach is the appropriate next step.

What We Are Asking of the Selectboard

Tonight, we are asking for three things:

1. **Support in determining exactly how the remaining \$95,195.56 in grant funding can be used**, including funds available for engineering and related work such as test pits, archaeological review, or other required studies.
2. **A vote authorizing the Committee to pursue next steps with Aldrich & Elliott** and work toward a final scope and fee proposal, with the goal of completing the funded work before the December 2027 deadline.
3. We were also asked by Chris Roy from the **Newport Daily Express** whether the engineering proposals could be released publicly. We are referring that question to the Selectboard for its determination.

Our goal is to keep this process moving while there is funding available and to focus first on answering the fundamental question: **Where can a practical wastewater solution actually work in Greensboro Village?**