City ‘television sewer system’

BY ALYSSA MEIER

Editor

Engineers will take an extended peek underground at Wilton’s sewer system within the next year in what city officials jokingly refer to as “sewer TV.”

An extensive recording of the entire city’s sewer lines is set to be performed this fall or early next spring after the Wilton City Commission approved a bid from Infra-Track, a nationwide company. The South Dakota company will take a day to explore the underground workings of the city before handing over the video to employees of Ulteig Engineers for review.

Each line will be inventoried, and it will tell us if there is a sag or crack, and what condition it is in,” A.J. Tuck of Ulteig Engineers said at the Aug. 16 meeting. “We can analyze what’s the best and what’s worst and where our priorities are.”

Tuck said the project would thoroughly document every line in the city’s sewer system giving us valuable insight as to what is going on below ground.

If there is a sewer main break, we will know what size pipe we need to replace,” Tuck said.

Tuck said four companies bid on the project, with Infra-Track coming in lowest with a bid of $485,275. This amount will likely go up slightly as the company may be forced to find unanticipated roots that need cutting or pipes in need of immediate attention. Tuck said he anticipated the project may cost close to $55,000, when all said and done. He advised adding an extra line on sewer bills to pay for the project.

With 350 hook-ups in the city, it would cost about 1.5 cents per line,” Tuck said. “That’s about $8 per year if you spread it out over 18-month period.”

Tuck said it would make sense to charge commercial users more, as those facilities typically have more traffic and more wear and tear on sewer lines.

Commissioner Bill Kary said he would like to ask for some money from the Sales Tax and Use commission in order to cut down on the impact on residents.

“It doesn’t hurt to ask,” Tuck said. “It shows the citizens that you’re willing to pony up some cash to help buy that cost down.”

The commissions agreed to request $30,000 of Sales Tax money, in order to approximately cut the cost of the project in half.

Kary said the sewer line television imaging seems like an expensive project, but that he felt it would save money in the long run if problems can be solved before they get worse and require proactive instead of reactive, Kary said.

The commission unanimously approved a motion to hire Infra-Track at $485,275. Tuck said he wasn’t sure if Infra-Track’s availability, but he guessed the project would take place either this fall or next spring.

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in cost and in access to the low flow channel. He said AE2S has worked with other four geographical groups, and that he hopes to present a tech memo to commissions by the end of the month. Lothspeich said AE2S is working thoroughly to evaluate every aspect of the project in an effort to make sure the right decision is made in the end.

“We want to cast a wide net to make sure people have the choice for the city,” Lothspeich said. We have received proposals from four different companies for site one. That will be something in addition which we will discuss.

The current intake was installed in the 1970s, with modifications made in 2010. Lothspeich said the life-span of intakes depends greatly on the flow of the river, and that it isn’t uncommon for them to be replaced every 15 years, or even more regularly.

Mandan has gone through a similar intake to keep up with it,” Lothspeich said. “They had to dredge out the intake to keep up with it.”

Construction is expected to start on the new intake in 2018, if the current schedule is followed. The project is estimated to cost between $2.8 million and $3.5 million, with 65 percent covered by a State Water Commission grant. This would leave 35 percent, or approximately $970,000 to $1.2 million, of the project’s funding to the city.