

**Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA)**  
**Proposal to Repair or Replace Aging**  
**Sanitary Sewer**

**Submitter Contact Information**

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**Proposal Information**

***Author (citizen, business, organization, or committee):***

*Edmund Meehan*

*Chairman, Water Pollution and Control Authority*

***Description of project:***

This project is for provision of ARPA funds to make necessary repairs and replacement of the infrastructure needs of the Town's 40-year-old sanitary system. This Chester facility is essential to the economic vitality of the village neighborhood and the Town's clean water obligations. The Town's sewer system is relatively small (24 residential properties with 72 estimated dwelling units plus 26 mixed-commercial/residential properties with 30 business establishments) but represents a critical

infrastructure to provide reliable 24-7 year -round services in the village area.

User fees paid by the 50 connected properties fund the operating budget that includes a minimal capital reserve of only \$7,500. Given the age of the sanitary system, it is time to begin replacing sections of the original sewer lines. Although a case could be made that the sewer repairs that are now necessary should be paid for by raising user fees, it is expected that nearly \$100,000 would be needed to make necessary repairs and require an increase in user fees that are too great to bear by many users of the system. This was particularly true during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic but remains true at the current time.

Several of the necessary repairs are urgent and include 1) replacing and rebuilding the sewer line and manholes behind 43-51 Main Street (Colt House to old Town Hall) 2) replacing and rebuilding the sewer line from Water Street connecting to the pump station (easement through 4 Water Street parking lot) and 3) improving the pump station's electrical reliability for portable emergency generator back up connection.

Detailed information about specific aspects including estimated costs associate with this WPCA proposal and project can be found on the Town's website under the Board of Selectman (BOS) section in the October 27, 2021, meeting minutes. A motion was made for an appropriation of \$93,000 from the Town's ARPA funds at a Special Town Meeting held on December 15, 2021. The motion was tabled.

WPCA subsequently re-submitted a prioritized list of 5 projects to be undertaken and provided an updated request for a total of \$98,480. This request for first round ARPA funds was submitted to the Board of Selectmen on February 16,2022.

Details relevant to the revised proposal are posted on Chester's website (chesterct.org) under the Town Government tab for Water Pollution Control, link to minutes dated, February 15,2022. The prioritized list and estimated costs are : Project #1 – 45-51 Main Street Sewer line and manhole replacement (\$38,678), Project #2 – Repair emergency generator, insurance payment deductible (uncertain cost but estimated to be \$1000), Project #3 – 4 Water Street reline 338 feet sewer pipe to pump station (\$43,485), Project #4 – Pump station emergency generator transfer switch (quoted at \$14,315) and Project #5 – Revise 2006 Sewer Area Map, update and prepare in GIS format (\$1000)

***ARPA funds requested:***

This request is for allocation of up to \$98,480 in ARPA funds to perform the necessary work as previously described for the revised WPCA proposal. The project could fall into either the “government services” or the “water/sewer/infrastructure, both Eligible Use categories under the ARPA final rule.

***Who would most benefit from the project if approved:***

Since Chester's village area is essential to the economic vitality of our town, failure of the current sewer system would have catastrophic consequences for all of Chester's residents, visitors, and businesses.

***Positive impact of project to the Chester Community***

The 2019-2029 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) document indicated that maintaining the Village District as the “economic, social and cultural hub of the community” was a key objective that should be addressed in long-range planning for

the Town's conservation and development. This project addresses a critical infrastructure need in the town of Chester since, as previously stated, failure of the system could have catastrophic consequences.