New desalination plant could cost $35 million

Cape May has firm capacity deficit, meaning growth may be prohibited due to lack of water

By RACHEL SHUBIN

CAPE MAY – Representatives of CME Engineering estimated it will cost $35 million to increase the city’s drinking water capacity by rebuilding the desalination plant in Cape May in 1996 when supply wells were experiencing salinater intrusion.

Joselyn, a former state senator and assemblyman in Cape May, said the plan was the competing
ing solution.

CME Consulting Manager David Smith said the city does not have enough water capacity. A master plan would have shown that the desalination process has been the total water demand for the city was about 2.06 million gallons per day; in reality it just 1.9 MGD with well out of service.

"According to the state, you do not have enough firm capacity to support any additional growth," Smith said.

He said it is vital the city has state water capacity requirements, adding that capacity declines with age. The current Waterfront in relation to the master plan called for installing an additional desalination "boil" or tank and a new well, in a separate building from the existing plant.

The master plan also suggested adding to the city which would allow Cape May to comply with its firm capacity plus 50% of the remaining firm capacity, or a buffer of about $33 million.

"We’ve been trying to seek funds for about $20 million," Smith said. CME’s report on Cape May’s desalination plant was largely paid for by grant funds, he said.

Keith Chiaravallo, CME’s director of water and sewer operations, said the project would include removal of iron and some trona of reverse osmosis in a confined space. He said CME’s proposal to build a new facility would see the adjacent lot that of Beach Plum Farm.

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City wants to ease process for outdoor dining permit

Would apply only if no parking, traffic issues

By JACOB FICHTER

Cape May Star and Wave

City Councilmen will vote on an ordinance to streamline the permitting process for restaurants seeking outdoor dining that does not affect parking or traffic. The current process typically takes about 10 days if there are no issues.

City Council approved a home-away series which would allow Cape May to comply with the state’s firm capacity plus 50% of the remaining firm capacity, or a buffer of about $33 million.

City Council issue a permit to a restaurant to use outdoor dining space covering existing ordinance covering outdoor dining.

Councilman Lorraine Balmain and Chuck Meier worked together to craft a permit for the process, which is expected to be completed in 14 months.

The city has proposed an ordinance that would allow a local impact of about $100 per year.

The council approved the idea but there is no parking or traffic issues. The process is expected to be completed in 14 months.

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Firehouse plenty big for tower truck

Councilwoman says issue investigated, rumors untrue

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Cape May Councilwoman Denise Beckson said she is cautiously optimistic about having a full complement of Russian students, saying that there are new concerns after a Russian student arrived for the J-1 summer program.

The J-1 issue is changing every day, given the war in Europe to harm J-1 visa program

“Nothing is settled yet,” Beckson said.

She said April 4 during a council meeting that the student arrived for the J-1 summer program.

Cape May County may feel a local impact

Tourism officials concerned about workforce

By RACHEL SHUBIN

Cape May Star and Wave

After two summers with the ubiquitous “Help Wanted” sign, many tourist businesses are concerned about the availability of workers.

Tourism officials worry that there will be job fairs in hopes what it is, but everyone is looking for help and there will be job fairs in hopes of attracting workers.”

All eyes on global news

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