Some funds secured, more pending for desal plant

Engineer recommends Cape May build new facility rather than rehabilitating current one

By JACOB FICTHER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city needs to replace its water desalination plant, a project with a price tag of $25 million, much of which the city already hopes will come in the form of grant money.

At a July 18 meeting, David Samuel, managing partner in Consulting and Municipal Engineers (CMES), updated City Council on the project. He has met a number of times with the mayor, city manager and city engineers about the project.

Cape May has decommissioned the outdated system and has been coordinating with the federal authorities to get additional funds for the project.

He said he has met with the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and its commissioner to review it.

“We’re receiving positive input from all of those agencies,” Samuel said.

The project had a very limited authorization to start, so preliminary plans have not been prepared yet.

“We’re all waiting for that until much of federal funds that we are supposed to be authorized,” he said. “We are in the midst of the contract and complete the building designs.”

Samuel, chief executive officer of grant consultants Total Solutions, said his firm submitted an application for congressional-directed spending as part of the federal infrastructure bill and Cape May secured a $600,000 grant for preliminary design and obtaining permits.

Samuel said he anticipated coming up with a plan for a new desal plant by the end of the year. He said the project can be completed in phases, if necessary, depending on the financing.

The new plant would be built in on the parking lot of the city’s water plant, Samuel said, adding that it would have three reverse osmosis units — referred to in trade — and an iron-removal system.

The facilities would use large filters, such with a capacity to produce five million gallons per day. He displayed schematics and concept plans that he said needed to be reviewed, coming from the city’s water department.

Consultant Mike Vogt asked Samuel if he had visited other desalination plants in the U.S. to compare.

“I’m going to argue that Cape May, assuming a new re-development process that you are currently doing. We don’t stop without iron removal, you are sec- ond running them in the future.”

He said part of the project is to recognize the potential that a state or federal grant funding is secured to mini- mize the cost to the city. He stated that the desal plant, it actually has a certain percentage of water is lost and it is used to be planted in the system.

The current desal plant has been a 2 million-gallon-per-week. This new plant will have a 5 million-gallon-per-day capacity but you also going to have to improve the existing philosophy process that you are currently running, without iron removal, you are second running them in the future.”

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Board also objects to use of stamped concrete trim

By JACOB FICTHER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — The city is cracking down on contractors who are altering other people’s parks in space in their parks.

A sign marks the space as reserved parking.

City Manager Mike Volpe said the parking permit carries a number that must be displayed on the back of the vehicle’s rear window.

The license plate number must match the number on the parking permit.

“It seems to be that people who have those tags are violating it by having their permit patch gone,” he said.

A city police officer will know the police are going to seat to enforce that; we’re getting complaints about it,” he said.

The enabling ordi-

nance has been in effect for 13 years with an increase in the parking permit fee. The fee for a reserved parking permit for May 6, which is open to the public parking on May 15 and December to De-

He said the city is enforcing a vehicle regulation. In addition, code enforcement is counting

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Caroline Dioguespecial to the STAR AND WAVE

Cape May Point
Women’s Lifeguard Challenge

2nd Annual Cape May Point Women’s Lifeguard Challenge took place Sunday at 9 a.m.

The event was moved indoors to Cape May Point Lighthouse Building due to light rain.

The event features races for dolphins, 12 and 15 miles.

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HPC says wood poor choice for seawall project

By JACOB FICTHER
Cape May Star and Wave

HPS, a consulting engineering firm based in West Cape May, is preparing a report that selected wood for a seawall project.

“Why had I prepared it — I prepared it for the need for concrete,” he said.

It was a reapplication for the HPC to endorse the use of stamped concrete, Coupland said.

Cape May’s Historic Preservation Officer said nothing would be built into the seawall. Construction officials would have to “signoff” to proceed as they complete the project.

“This mandate by the city took the form of a lawsuit,” he said.

He said the city is aware of this lawsuit.

By DAVID NAHAN
Cape May Star and Wave

TRENTON — Opponents of Ocean Wind 2, the wind farm planned off the coast of Cape May and Atlantic counties, filed suit to block federal redevelopments from go-

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ject.

Two citizen groups, Project Our Coast NJ and Defend Brigantine Beach, filed suit against a govern-

ment agency in federal court.

The suit alleged that the department of the Interior was acting arbitrarily and capriciously when it approved the seawa-

ll.

The government agency held a hearing to consider the proposal but not to make a decision.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court.

The federal government is moving to open a wind farm off the coast of Cape May, New Jersey, which would have 11 wind turbines.

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