


# Background Information

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## MEMORANDUM

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TO: STEVE GIESBRECHT, BOROUGH MANAGER

FROM: KARL HAGERMAN, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR 

SUBJECT: SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST – WW COMPOSTING PROJECT

DATE: 1/28/2016

As you know, the wastewater department has been continually working to refine the processes and equipment used to compost the dewatered sludge from the treatment plant. This work started shortly after the sludge spill incident at the landfill in spring of 2015 which caused the department to close one of its sewage sludge monofill sites and to divert dewatered sludge, liquid septage and other liquid wastes to other disposal locations. The department has been successful with achieving time and temperature requirements for surface disposal of finished compost through use of rotary composters and static pile composting techniques, however the area that the composting project has occupied requires several improvements to fully meet regulations for this type of work. Additionally, a septage receiving station must be established that can accept outhouse and septic tank waste, without introducing trash and debris into the sanitary sewer system, while keeping our staff safe and in compliance with environmental regulations.

To meet these goals, wastewater staff has been working on a project plan to contain and control site leachate from storm water influences, establish a septage receiving station and construct improvements for greater system functionality and reliability. The project will be built at the wastewater treatment plant and is estimated to cost \$310,000 in total. The project specifically includes:

- Concrete slab work to capture and drain leachate to a basin so that it may be pumped into the treatment plant (which is a regulatory requirement).
- The basin will also be a part of the septage receiving station that will allow tanker trucks to dump loads from outhouse vaults, porta potti's and septic tanks. The basin will contain a piece of machinery that will screen out the trash and debris from the load and allow the liquids to be pumped into the treatment plant.
- There will be a hydraulic power system to operate the rotary composters. This will be a big improvement and much more reliable than the ancient diesel engine in the cement truck that we are currently using to spin the compost mixer.
- A blower will be used to add fresh air into the compost and improve the process.
- Conveyors will be purchased to aid in loading and unloading of the composters.
- General site work requires various electrical upgrades and infrastructure for the equipment.

The priority for this project is to complete the concrete slab work and septage receiving basin so that all leachate will be captured. As this work should be completed as soon as possible, I'm requesting that a portion of the project funding be included in the next supplemental budget ordinance. **The requested supplemental appropriation is \$140,000.** This work will be bid and contracted as soon as possible.

The remaining \$170,000 to complete the project has been proposed in the FY17 wastewater department's budget. All funds proposed in this fiscal year and in FY17 will be transferred out of wastewater reserves and placed in a capital project fund for contracting, equipment purchasing and professional services.

The wastewater department reserves are currently healthy and can fund this work without the need to increase rates above current rate schedules. I would appreciate your support as we seek to meet regulations and continue with the success that staff has had with the creation of our composting system.

Thank you for your consideration.