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NARRAGANSETT TOWN COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM REPORT

DATE: January 16, 2024

FROM: Jonathan Gerhard, Town Engineer

CO-SPONSOR: Patty Roosa, Town Manager Executive Assistant/Human Resources Manager

DEPARTMENT: Engineering Department

SUBJECT:

A MOTION TO APPROVE the filling of one (1) vacancy within the Wastewater Division due to a retirement.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Pursuant to the policy adopted by the Town Council (January 5, 2015), wherein the “knowledge and approval of the Town Council” is required before filling vacancies of full-time positions, the Engineering Department\Wastewater Division requests permission to fill one (1) position that will become vacant as of January 12, 2024 due to an employee retirement effective that date. This is an existing position within Local 1179 - Operator II (Wastewater Division). This position has existed within the Wastewater Division for over twenty-five (25) years and is essential to the proper operation and function of the Scarborough WWTF, our nineteen (19) outlying pump stations, and over 75 mile of sewer lines.

The Operator II performs maintenance and operations duties at the Scarborough WWTF and in the field. A Grade II Wastewater Operator license as issued by the State (RIDEM) is required for this position as well.

Based on the current RI Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (RIPDES) permit that we operate under, we are considered at “minimum manning” based on the 2018 staffing levels, the size and complexity of the Scarborough WWTF, and the size of our wastewater collection system. As such, this position is considered essential. It is fully funded through the Wastewater Enterprise Fund operating budget for FY 2023-24. Leaving it unfilled, even for a short period of time, will result in additional overtime costs and potential compliance issues with the operation and maintenance of the Scarborough WWTF and our collection system.

The job description for this position was approved by the Town Council at the February 27, 2017 Town

Council meeting.

FUNDING SOURCE:

Wastewater Enterprise Fund operating budget

ATTACHMENTS:

[WW Plant Operator II.doc](#)