

BIGFORK WATER TANK BOND ELECTION

INFORMATIONAL FLYER

The Bigfork County Water and Sewer District is proposing a General Obligation Bond to construct a new water tank, water transmission main, and repair the existing standpipe tank. The following is some information about the project.

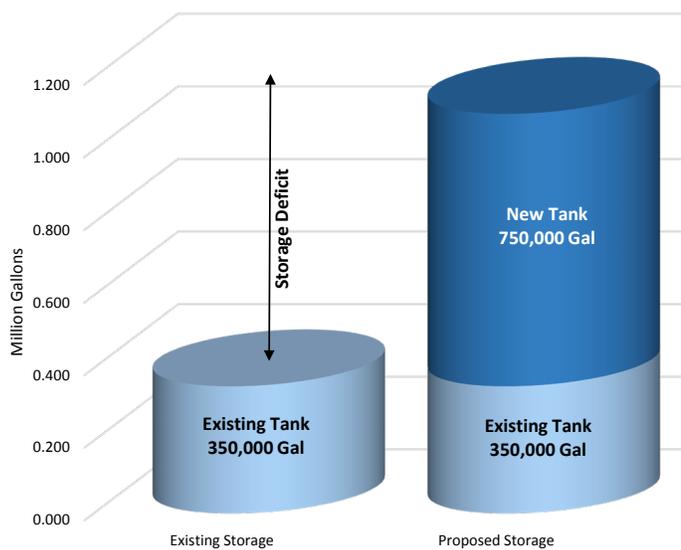
Why does Bigfork need a new water tank and transmission main?

There are two primary reasons for the project:

1. Provide sufficient water for a fire emergency

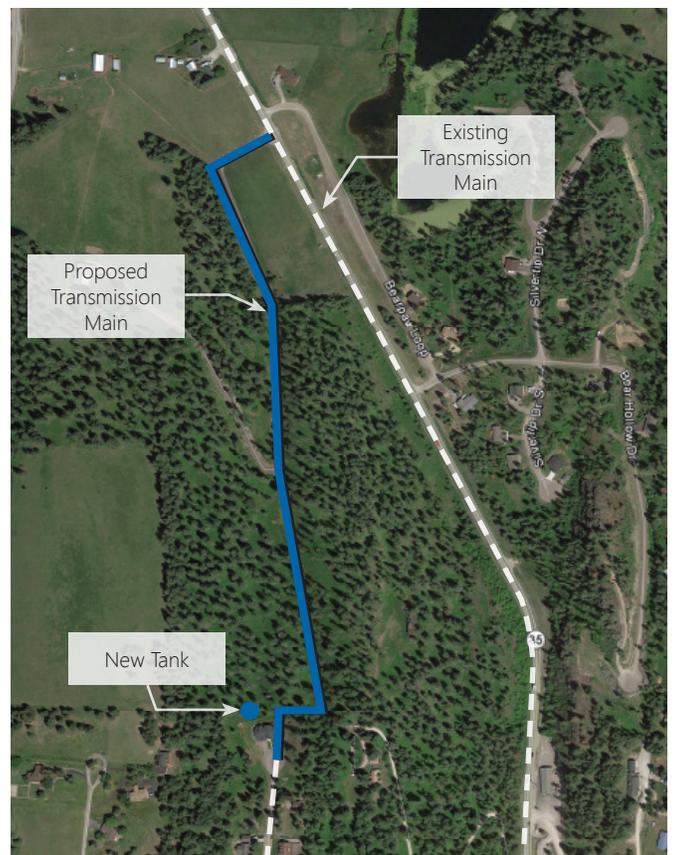
The existing water tanks do not have enough capacity to meet the water demands during a fire emergency. Should a fire break out during the peak summer demands, there would only be about an hour and a half of water reserve in storage to suppress the fire.

The graphic below shows the existing storage vs. how much storage is needed for fire suppression.



2. Prepare for Highway 35 Construction through Ice Box Canyon

MDT has begun design on improvements to Highway 35 through Ice Box Canyon. The water line that connects Bigfork to the well field (North of Highway 82) runs through this same corridor. Constructing the highway improvements while keeping this critical main online will be challenging both for MDT and the District. This project solves this issue by providing a secondary transmission line around Ice Box Canyon through the Pierce property.



What other improvements will be made during the project?

The exterior paint on the standpipe tank (near the High School football field) has started peeling off (see image). The paint was sent for testing and it was determined it contains lead. Since the interior paint is not peeling, there is no immediate public health risk (the District routinely tests for lead in the drinking water). However, because the metal is now exposed to the elements, it is necessary to repaint the tank. The District has elected to refurbish both the inside and outside of the tank at the same time to save future rehabilitation costs.



Why is this project paid for with a GO Bond (taxes) vs. a Revenue Bond (rates)?

The project is proposed as a General Obligation Bond (paid on your tax bill) rather than a revenue bond (paid on your water bill) because the increased storage capacity and improvements to the existing standpipe will provide reliable fire protection for all properties within the District, regardless of whether they are connected to the water system or not.



What is the Anticipated Schedule?

The following tasks are required to complete the project:

- ✓ Preliminary Engineering
- ✓ Apply for Grant/Loan Funding
- ✓ Acquire needed Easement and Property
- GO Bond Election: February 2020
- Design: April 2020 - October 2020
- Bidding: October 2020 - February 2021
- Construction: April 2021 - November 2021

Will there be any public meetings?

Yes. The District is planning to present the project in more detail at the Bigfork Town Hall Meeting January 14th, 2020.

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?

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Please visit
www.bigforkwater.com
for project updates.