

It's far worse than we thought

After watching the presentation on our 10 year \$100.million dollar connecting link project with all it's proposed enhancements and options, and a black cloud came over the me, then came the real bombshell!

If you all recall I wrote a little blurb about the fiasco that was occurring with this new Blending Chamber, at our water plant. Well worry no more people everything is under control, this according to our city engineer Luc DUVAL. Luc graciously accepted full responsibility for this project failure. A project that under his watch has doubled in price by over \$2.5million dollars, costing the city over \$1.5 million dollars in missed grant opportunities and has tripled the cost of management fees. WSP our project consultant, only two weeks ago admitted publicly to dropping the ball in estimating this project. Not to worry though Luc has the answer! Just increase our water bills by some \$10. Or \$15. dollars yearly until his fiasco is completely paid for by the year 2023. Of course this is above the \$30.for the next 35 years that the rate payers will have to pay to cover the fiasco that was our new secondary waste water plant. Can anyone else see a problem here? I sure do! Since when does the city staff dictate to council the exact amount of additional levies to cover up their mistakes? Am I the only one infuriated by this very notion, this is not the first time that Mr. DUVAL has proposed such an increase. The \$30 dollars for 35 years increase for the botched secondary waste water project was his idea in the first place. He has often come to council asking for a non budgeted piece of equipment, telling council he has saved some monies on this project or that project and the savings could be put towards this new piece of equipment, woah! Slow your horses down if you have saved the city some money by whatever means, that money comes back to the city coffers. It is not yours to spend. Does any one else recall the sole sourced snow removal contract that council had to approve because of his ultra specific RFP process? You know the one that came back with a 57% increase from the previous year. Does anyone else recall the \$500,000 blunder at our Deloro land fill site the one with no repercussions? What about the sinking pump house at the new east end lift station? How much of an increase will he suggest we pay to cover up for these blunders? I only have one more question, when will someone from the city or council grow a pair and put a stop to these outrageous and expensive mistakes? The answer last night was we should have hired a cost consultant to watch over the management consultant that we hired. You know the one that has just tripled it's asking price for work poorly performed. In this instance I can truly feel the anger building up in our Mayor and two councillors Dubeau and Campbell. All the rest just sit there in silence knowing that the bank machines will bail them out. This has to stop and stop now! If he cannot be trusted to over see a \$2.5 million dollar contract what will happen with this \$100.million dollar connecting link? I shudder to think about it. This news is poorly timed especially when most of us just received our new MPAC assessments. As taxpayers we need to revolt, the city has absorbed and spent an increase of over 25% and yet they still feel the need to increase the mill rate. Enough already! We tap!

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