

APPROVED MINUTES

**SARATOGA COUNTY SEWER COMMISSION No. 1
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2014
3:00 PM at the Treatment Plant**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Davis, Bold, Doyle, Howe, Loewenstein, Ostapczuk and Rinaldi

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Cannon and Marshall

ALSO PRESENT: Chad M. Cooke P.E., Executive Director; Anne Gorman, Confidential Secretary; Sue Duff, Chief Operator; Jim Bolduc, Assistant Chief Operator; Grant Eaton, Maintenance Manager; Robert Wilcox, Assistant County Attorney; Ryan Moore, Management Analyst; Dan Rourke P.E., Delaware Engineering and Stephen Williams, *Daily Gazette*.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS: Chairman Davis stated that September 20, 2014 marked 30 years for him as a Commissioner and 21 years as Chairman of the Saratoga County Sewer Commission. He told the Commissioners they were one of the best groups he has had the pleasure to work with and commended them for their great logic, helping the County expand, keeping the environment safe and he thanked them for all the time and effort they have put in to the Sewer District.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of August 27, 2014. *Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve the minutes of September 24, 2014. Commissioner Rinaldi seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes of September 24, 2014 were approved. 7 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

2015 SCALE OF CHARGES:

Approval of publication for the proposed rates for 2015 and scheduling the Public Hearing for 9:00 A.M., November 5, 2014 in the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

Commissioner Doyle made a motion for approval of publication of the proposed Scale of Charges for 2015 and scheduling the Public Hearing at 9:00 A.M. on November 5, 2014 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers at the Saratoga County Municipal Center in Ballston Spa. Commissioner Loewenstein seconded the motion and asked for a summarization. Discussion involved a \$10.00 rate change. Executive Director Cooke indicated that Sewer District was proposing a \$10.00 treatment rate increase for all users. He said the collection charge would remain the same. The Sewer District has 75,775 units which is approximately 2,400 higher than last year. The rate increase will result in an average of approximately \$197.00 per unit for treatment across the County. Commissioner Loewenstien questioned if the rate increase would still keep us among one of the lowest charges within the Capital District and across the state. Executive Director Cooke said yes and indicated that our rates are still \$40.00 to \$50.00 less per user than Rensselaer County and still among the lowest in the country. Chairman Davis said that staff should be commended for keeping the rates

low as long as they have as well as keeping expenses down year to year. The motion for approval of publication of the proposed 2015 Scale of Charges and scheduling of the Public Hearing for Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 9:00 A.M. at the County Complex passed: 7 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.

2011 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

McDonald Engineering – Saratoga Lake and 4&32. All work is substantially complete. Executive Director Cooke reported that some retainage money is being held until the contractor completes a few punch list items that are relatively minor in nature. The work is anticipated to be wrapped in the next couple of weeks. The contractor has a couple of legal items with regard to property damage claims and these issues should be resolved in the next couple of weeks as well.

2013 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Sludge Thickener – Executive Director Cooke reported that the project is essentially complete. The contractor has one (1) hatch left to install in the sludge storage tank and there is one (1) VFD drive that needs to be replaced. The project is anticipated to be complete in the next couple of weeks.

2014 CAPITAL PROJECTS:

Milton Pump Station Upgrade – A preconstruction meeting was held on Friday, October 10, 2014 with the general contractor as well as the electrical contractor. Both contractors have been submitting shop drawings to EDP for approval. The pumps have been ordered from Flygt and delivery is expected in late December. The project is still slated for substantial completion in late Spring of 2015.

Interceptor Phase V – Contracts are still in the process of being executed. There were some errors with the insurance bonds and we have been working with the contractor to resolve those issues. The Contractor expressed some interest in possibly starting the project in late winter or early spring of next year as opposed to starting in the middle of winter. Executive Director Cooke indicated that he would like to limit the amount of time the Zim Smith Trail is closed and said this shouldn't be a problem as the contractor's work typically doesn't run more than a couple of weeks.

Treatment Plant Upgrades – Recent issues with the incinerator has the Sewer District contemplating whether or not to move forward with the odor control system upgrade at the plant. The odor control system is one component of the treatment plant upgrades, along with replacing sludge storage tank mixers and a bar screen for bar screen #3. Executive Director Cooke said he had a discussion last week with our consultant, The MRB Group, about the possibility of not moving forward with the full design of the odor control system because the sizing of the unit will be dependent on whether or not we continue to incinerate in the future. Our consultant suggested taking the odor control system through the conceptual basis of design phase and waiting until the outcome of the incinerator study before moving forward. Credit for design and construction services will be discussed with the consultant. In the mean time, the Sewer District is using a new chemical for long term odor control until we have a fully functional odor control system.

Main Sewage Pumps – The contracts for replacement of the main sewage pumps are out for bid and due back next Thursday, October 30, 2014. O'Brien & Gere will review the proposals and submit an award recommendation for the November 5, 2014 Commission meeting.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Incinerator – Proposals for the incinerator alternatives study are due tomorrow, October 23, 2014. Executive Director Cooke said the proposals will be reviewed and he hopes to have an award recommendation at the next Commissioner Meeting on November 5, 2014. Executive Director Cooke also told the Commission that he was still gathering information associated with incinerator repair costs as well as hauling pricing and hopes to have more to report at the next meeting.

Aeration Tank No. 7 – Last Friday, October 17, 2014, sometime between 11:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. the floor of Aeration Tank No. 7 heaved. Executive Director Cooke provided the Commissioners with images of the aeration tank to look at for reference. It is believed that forces due to hydrostatic pressure pushed up the floor in the tank. Delaware Engineering as well as North Country Engineering were here on Monday, October 20, 2014 to take a look at the aeration tank but were unable to see much as the tank was filled back up on Friday in an effort to not exacerbate the situation. The Commissioners discussed possible causation and Executive Director Cooke suggested possibly hiring a third party to take a look as the warranty period has expired. The insurance company is scheduled to come out and take a look next Thursday, October 30, 2014.

ATTORNEY REPORT:

Attorney Wilcox said he has been reviewing the contract for the last plant upgrade and how it relates to the aeration tank issue. He said he continues to work on on-going easements for the Sewer District as they come in but other than that there was nothing else to report at this time.

DEDICATIONS: None

COMMITTEES:

ENGINEERING COMMITTEE – Commissioner Doyle

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Rinaldi and seconded by Commissioner Doyle. No discussion. The motion passed.

NEXT COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, November 5, 2014
9:15 A.M. at the County Complex, Bldg 1 following Public Hearing at 9:00 A.M.