

## UNAPPROVED MINUTES

### SARATOGA COUNTY SEWER COMMISSION NO. 1

MINUTES OF October 21, 2009

3:00 PM Treatment Plant

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Davis, Bold, Cannon, Crowley, Doyle, Loewenstein and Nelson  
**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Kearney, Schrock

**ALSO PRESENT:** James DiPasquale, Executive Director; Linda MacNeal, Administrative Assistant; Stephen Dorsey, First Assistant County Attorney; Spencer Hellwig, Management Analyst; Sue Duff, Chief Operator; Bernie Gurtler, Assist. Chief Operator; Grant Eaton, Collection System Manager; Ed Hernandez, Delaware Engineering; Steve Williams, *The Daily Gazette*; Emily Donohue, *The Saratogian*..

**PUBLIC COMMENT - None**

**CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS** - The Commission will meet next on November 4, 2009 at the County Complex at 9:00 AM for the Public Hearing of the 2010 proposed Sewer Rates. The Commission meeting will follow.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of September 23, 2009.** *Commissioner Doyle made the motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2009. Commissioner Crowley seconded the motion. No discussion, 7Ayes, 0 Nays. The minutes of September 23, 2009 was approved.*

**TREATMENT PLANT EXPANSION** - The weekly tour of the construction site and review of upcoming activities with Delaware on Monday mornings at 10:30 AM. is continuing, all the commissioners are invited to attend. The contractors met with Delaware Engineering, Saratoga County Sewer District Personnel and several Commissioners prior to this Commission Meeting. An update on the project was given by Commissioner Doyle. The work is progressing; work has begun on the UV system, the building is expected to be completed in 30 to 60 days. The current septage receiving area is being upgraded, the new station will provide tracking information and the ability for pre-treatment. The primary clarifiers' mechanical equipment is installed and the aeration systems are in, the gates are being installed and piping is being tested. The maintenance garage is expected to be completed in 60 days. The garage space in building #2 will then be relocated to the new maintenance building. Then, construction can begin for the new lab. After relocation of the lab, construction of new office space will begin in the present lab area and then rehab of the current Administrative offices. Currently Delaware is working with Jett on coordinating the bypass pumping for piping upgrades. The overall project is still on schedule expecting to be completed the summer of 2010.

Commissioner Loewenstein thanked the Sewer District Staff and particularly Delaware's Ed Hernandez for hosting and providing a tour of the facility for the Syracuse University Students. Clough Harbour received positive reviews from both the students and professors for the opportunity to observe both an operating Treatment Plant as well as an ongoing Construction Project.

Executive Director James DiPasquale commented that the numerous questions asked from the students indicated their level of interest in the Plant and Project.

Chairman Davis instructed Commissioner Doyle to investigate that the level of Site lighting at the Plant is in conformance of IES standards. Commissioner Doyle asked to report back at the December meeting; as there is insufficient time before the November 4<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**FUTURE TREATMENT PLANT-** Committee Chairman Commissioner Nelson reported the Committee met October 15<sup>th</sup> and the next meeting will be with Planning Board Director, Jason Kemper for further information gathering.

**2010 SEWER USER RATES** - A copy of the proposed Notice of Public Hearing scheduled for November 4, 2009 at 9:00 A. M. was distributed to the Commissioners. The proposed rates reflect the tentative budget for 2010 that has been submitted to the County Administrator's office for review; included is an across the board \$30.00 per unit increase to pay for debt services incurred by the Plant expansion. The debt service expenses for 2010 associated with the Treatment Plant expansion is approximately \$2 million dollars to be paid by approximately 64,000 users. This is the first increase in seven years and the rates are still among the lowest in the Country. Chairman Davis stated that considering the last increase was seven years ago, the increase is reasonable; costing residents less than \$3.00 per month for the service that they are receiving. Optimistically, after receiving the expected increased revenue from development in the Luther Forest Technology Campus, the rates could be held for a number of years in the future. The rates will be presented at the Public Hearing. Action will then be taken by the Commissioners at the meeting following the Public Hearing; the rates will then be presented to the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors for adoption.

Commissioner Cannon asked if he could get additional information for comparison of rates. Jim DiPasquale stated he had reports available that he could forward. He cautioned that if exploring the Web Site or publications, that sometimes the rates are only for the treatment and do not include a collection system as do ours. Director DiPasquale also stated that the CMOM program, a national program for management of sewer systems done a few years ago reported that SCSD's rates were very reasonable.

Commissioner Davis made the motion for approval of publication of the proposed rates for 2010 and scheduling the Public Hearing for 11/4/09, 9:00 AM at the County Complex. Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion. No discussion. *The motion for approval of publication of the proposed 2010 Sewer Rates and scheduling of the Public Hearing for Wednesday November 4, 2009 at 9:00 A.M at the County Complex passed; 7Ayes, 0 Nays.*

#### **CAPITAL CONTRACTS FOR UPGRADES:**

**GROOMS ROAD AND CRESCENT ESTATES PUMP STATIONS** - located in the Towns of Halfmoon and Clifton Park. TVGA is the Consulting Engineer for the project and the contractors are C.O. Falter and Brunswick Electric. Crescent Estates pump station in Clifton Park is 95% complete and work at the Grooms Road Pump Station in Halfmoon has begun. Commissioner Doyle praised the new project engineer of TVGA in coordinating the project and gaining the cooperation of the contractors. A general project meeting for the Grooms Pump Station was held October 14<sup>th</sup> and the new station is expected to be installed on November 16, 2009, with completion in late 2009.

## **COLLECTION SYSTEM INFORMATION:**

**LFTC TRUNK SEWER** - The project started on April 27, 2009, with completion expected by in the Fall of 2009. The sewer line is being installed by the Luther Forest Technology Corporation. Rifenburg is the General Contractor. C.T. Male is providing full time inspection of the project and they will issue certification, As-Builts plans and documents. Work on the sewer line siphon along Coons Crossing Road under the Anthony Kill for connection to the interceptor sewer line is proceeding. Upon completion, the system is proposed for dedication to SCSD. Executive Director, James DiPasquale stated that work near the Anthony Kill has a deadline of completion by the end of October. Sewer District personnel have been reviewing the progress and have been informed of all the construction meetings and inspections. Prior to dedication to Saratoga County Sewer District, easements for the line will be reviewed to ensure Saratoga County Sewer District will have access to the sewer line. The line has been designed to accommodate 10mgd. As of last evening, Director Jim DiPasquale observed that the work had proceeded to the edge of Route 67, preparing for crossing the road and connecting with the pipe installed on the north side of Route 67.

Commissioner Doyle, Executive Director James DiPasquale and the Project Manger Jim Edwards of C.T. Male Associates met on October 19<sup>th</sup> to discuss the concerns relative to the design that Chairman Davis asked Commissioner Doyle to investigate.

Commissioner Doyle was satisfied that the design is adequate; including the steep slope on Farley road and the 90° degree transition to Route 67. As a result of the meeting; C. T. Male will provide instructions for the operating procedure for start up of the system so the siphon system will function properly. Flows to the line cannot be approved until Global Foundries discharges adequate flow to achieve cleaning velocity. It has been recommended that the line be plugged so that discharge does not occur until appropriate flow is in the pipe. Any additional lateral permit connections to the line will be denied until that time. The project will be completed in the next few weeks. However, due to various issues, dedication will be discussed in the future when it is appropriate. SCSD staff and Commissioners will be notified when the internal TV inspection and connection to SCSD's interceptor line is scheduled.

**ROUTE 4 AND 32 CORRIDOR - Town of Halfmoon-** The signed minor contract with Environmental Design Partnership was returned and forwarded to the County for final execution. When the Contract has been executed, returned and forwarded to EDP; Executive Director James DiPasquale will issue a communication to the relevant municipalities and the Saratoga County Planning Board to coordinate information for undertaking the study.

**SARATOGA LAKE SEWER STUDY-**A review of prior reports and evaluations; information includes the 2001 S.L. #8 pump station evaluation, the 2003 Saratoga Lake facilities evaluation, the 2006 Saratoga Lake Sewer Study and the current Town of Malta's study for service in the north corridor of Route 9, north of the Highpointe Pump Station and review comments from the Phase 2 Sanitary sewer feasibility study for the northern service area in the Town of Malta presented by Clough Harbour. If Saratoga County Sewer District receives the stimulus money that has been requested, an update of the system would be addressed sooner than currently anticipated.

**GLOBAL FOUNDRIES (AMD) DISCHARGE PERMIT-** Delaware Engineering is conducting a technical review and determining discharge limits to ensure compliance with the District's SPDES permit. Additional information was received yesterday from Global Foundries with specific information as to the content of the proposed discharge. Their consultant is designing the onsite pump station, which will remain under ownership of Global Foundries as will the force main within their property. An in-house meeting will be scheduled to review Global Foundries application Tuesday 10/27/09.

**CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS** - The City's consultant has forwarded a proposal to redirect flows in the Nelson Ave. area to the Crescent Ave. gravity sewer. This would reduce the flow directed through SCSD's Excelsior Pump Station. Director Jim DiPasquale spoke with the city this week and they are proceeding with the project.

**DEVELOPER RENEE FARLEY** - A letter was received yesterday from Ms. Farley's asking for the Commission to consider a new proposal. At the August Commission meeting Ms. Farley's consultant, Scott Lansing presented a proposal that included her neighbors. A clarification was requested; until yesterday no additional contact was forthcoming. Ms Farley is now offering up to \$500 each for upgrading 20 grinder pumps to obtain conditional approval of 4 lots, clarification of contribution from her neighbors was not included in her letter. Saratoga County Sewer District has plans for the rehabilitation of one grinder pump that is impacted by drainage conditions. Until additional information for the cost of the rehabilitation and test is complete, no action on the request will be considered. Chairman Davis cautioned that the cost estimate should include the labor in addition to the cost of the parts. Director DiPasquale will respond to Ms. Farley, stating that the Commission would consider her proposal and respond in February 2010 when additional information is available.

Discussion amongst the Commissioner for solutions included controlling the level of Saratoga Lake. Commissioner Lowenstein commented that SCSD's concern should be limited to addressing the conditions of our system in the area. Commissioner Bold questioned whether the current plan would be sufficient in the future. Director DiPasquale will contact the Saratoga Lake Association and inquire if their study has new information regarding the levels of Saratoga Lake. This would be helpful for SCSD's projections to remedy the problems of the Collection System during flooding in this area. Collection System Manager Grant Eaton stated that with the current information available, depending on the specific location, the plan is to raise grinder pump cans between 12 and 24 inches.

#### **NYSDOT PROJECTS:**

**ROUTE 9 AND CURRY ROAD** - DOT will be reconstructing the intersection of Route 9 and Curry Road entering the Village of Round Lake, information was provided to the NYS DOT in consideration of existing sewer lines that are under the intersection and a manhole located in the intersection. Access to the Round Lake Pump Station will be from Route 9.

**NYS ROUTE 9P BRIDGE REPLACEMENT** -. The bid design and specifications have been finalized by NYS DOT and been approved by SCSD and Environmental Design Partnership. The betterment agreement payment has been received by NYS DOT and acknowledged. The project is expected to be released for bid in January. The first phase; planned to begin in early Spring involves boring under the lake for SCSD's force main replacement. After that has been completed, removal and replacement of the bridge will follow.

**DEDICATION:** None

**ATTORNEY REPORT** - Last Friday; Mark Rider, Saratoga County Attorney; Stephen Dorsey, First Assistant County Attorney and Greg Mills, Central Halfmoon Sewer Corporation President met. The Central Halfmoon Sewer Corporation has agreed to pursue eminent domain proceedings to obtain the outstanding easements. The Corporation has issued bills to their clients and has collected \$20,000 toward the \$29,000 owed to the Sewer District. Director Jim DiPasquale commented that the current bill for the Corporation includes penalties and has been adjusted to reflect acceptance of dedication of the system serving 224 units on May 7<sup>th</sup> 2009 and the discontinuance of maintenance services to Central Halfmoon Sewer Corporation on August 26<sup>th</sup> 2009.

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Crowley. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. No discussion. The motion was passed; 7 Ayes, 0 Nays.*

**NEXT COMMISSION MEETING**

**Wednesday, November 4, 2009**

**9:15 A.M. at the County Complex following the 9:00 A.M. Public Hearing**