

APPROVED MINUTES

**SARATOGACOUNTYSEWER COMMISSION No. 1
MINUTES OF JANUARY 9, 2020
3:00 PM at the Treatment Plant**

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Howe, Bisnett, Doyle, Fillion, Hotaling, Keegan, Loewenstein and Cannon

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Thompson

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Rourke P.E., Executive Director; Anne Gorman, Confidential Secretary; Assistant Chief Operator, Gene Hutchings; Andrew Marsden, Assistant Maintenance Manager; Chad M. Cooke P.E., Deputy County Administrator; Michael Hartnett, Assistant County Attorney; Michael P. Naughton, Assistant County Attorney

Chairman Howe called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Led by Commissioner Hotaling

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS: Chairman Howe wished everyone a happy new year and a healthy and prosperous 2020. He informed the Commission he was keeping the Committees the same as last year and he would like to have a kickoff meeting for each Committee this year to come up to speed. He said we need to discuss the North Plant and there are some capital projects coming up that need to be discussed as well. Chairman Howe also informed he was leaving the Committee Chairmen as they are for each Committee and he asked Commissioner Doyle if he would continue to Chair the Capital Projects Committee. Commissioner Doyle said he would.

Chairman Howe then introduced Michael Naughton, a new Assistant County Attorney who will be replacing Attorney Michael Hartnett. Chairman Howe said Attorney Hartnett has done an outstanding job for the Sewer District and this Commission and he thanked him for that. The Commission welcomed Attorney Naughton and Chairman Howe said he appreciated him being here today.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of December 5, 2019. *Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2019. Commissioner Bisnett seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes of December 5, 2019 were approved. 6 Ayes, 2 Abstain, 1 Absent, 0 Nays.*

2018 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Regional Biosolids Handling Facility – Executive Director Rourke reported we received a \$5M WIIA Grant for the Joint Regional Biosolids Facility Project. He said we will likely be submitting a letter to EFC stating that we are continuing to move forward with the project. We are not required to accept the grant because the letter is submitted and an agreement will be necessary if we do decide to accept the \$5M. He

said the only reason we would not accept it is if the project cost increased to a point where we could possibly be eligible for more funding next year and that is a discussion that is continuing and will be decided at a later date. Either way it is the highest award that we can get for a project under \$50M with subsidized funding.

Commissioner Cannon inquired about the timeline if we do not accept the \$5M due to increased project cost and if it would preclude us from applying again. Director Rourke said the letter to continue forward does not preclude us from submitting an application next year and we can still deny the \$5M. The reward portion of that risk is if the project is over \$50M, according to EFC rules this year, applicants are eligible for \$12.5M as opposed to a \$5M. He said it is hard to predict what will happen, if we accept the \$5M it is a one (1) time acceptance and if we forgo the \$5M and are not accepted for the \$12.5M then we could end up with nothing.

Executive Director Rourke informed there was a meeting December 20, 2019 with Material Matters. He said there was a good discussion relating to the biosolids market in New York as at the end of this project we will most likely have a product that can be marketed. A few key points came from that meeting. The first being the size of the facility we are building. It will generate approximately 2-3 times the amount of Class A dried biosolids that is currently being used beneficially in New York State according to EPA data. This means we will be driving the market when our product is ready to be marketed and we will have to be reactionary. The second is that there is a large demand in NY for compost. This has changed our direction slightly to looking at possible partners for composting.

Chairman Howe added he may ask the North Plant Property Committee to expand a bit when we start looking into this as there may be a chance that we need the North Plant property for biosolids storage. He asked that the North Plant Committee work with Executive Director Rourke, talk to the Town about zoning and see how that may or may not fit in. Executive Director Rourke said we are trying to figure out if it makes sense financially and if so, there will be many things to determine and discuss. The Commission had further discussion on possible cost, revenue, alternatives and analysis based on different technology.

Ammonia Related WWTP Upgrades – Executive Director Rourke reported the pilot is onsite, operational, and building mass. He said if anyone would like to take a look at the pilot at any time to let him know. He said to be candid, there have been some communication issues between the vendor, us and the engineer and we are trying to work through that. Our cost may increase a little bit for sampling, between \$2,000 and \$3,000 which we are currently negotiating to see if it is completely necessary. The next compliance date for our consent order is February 29, 2020, in which we need to generate a report evaluating our Sewer Use Ordinance regarding local ammonia limits. Executive Director Rourke said there are specific asks in the consent order that we need to address and one of those is local limits for ammonia. He will be asking for some assistance from the Sewer Use Ordinance Committee to help update our Sewer Use Ordinance Rules and Regulations and bring it to a more current form as ours is from 1984. He informed we have already put a substantial amount of legwork into it, previous Executive Director Chad Cooke put a lot of work into it when he was here and it is time to bring it to a more current status. He added he would like to meet with the Sewer Use Ordinance Committee in the next few weeks to finalize that as the report is due February 29, 2020.

Interceptor Rehabilitation Design – Executive Director Rourke reported he received the basis of design report and it looks like we are on track to go out to bid this summer. He said the cost estimate came in at \$25M with only a 10% contingency. He said there were some discussions based on unknown circumstances that have arisen in the past and it was decided to up the contingency to 20% for bonding purposes to make sure we have enough money to complete the project. The total project cost is approximately \$27.25M in the Sewer District's capital plan which was included in our financial analysis. Executive Director Rourke said he accounted for this amount in the budget and will not have to adjust the capital plan for this project. He added

our financial advisors are on board to start passing bond resolutions in the next few months to make sure those funds are available. The project is moving forward and the hard design will continue.

2019 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Knox Woods (HM) and Riverside #1 (ST) Pump Station Upgrades – Executive Director Rourke reported we received 90% of the plans for review. A meeting is scheduled for tomorrow, January 10, 2020 with our consultant, Chazen to review and finalize the plans. The project will then go out to bid shortly after.

Interceptor Rehabilitation Phase VIIA – Executive Director Rourke reported the contractor is currently setting up bypass for the 2nd phase of this project. Slip lining should begin again on January 20, 2020 and run approximately six (6) weeks after so we will be on schedule for the County to come back do some paving in the spring.

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Environmental Benefit Project (EBP) Service Agreement – Executive Director Rourke said this project is regarding solar array panels we are looking to install. A meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2020 to continue our investment grade audit. He said he appreciates the County Attorney’s office for pushing that through getting the contract executed as we are on a tight schedule to have this project up and running by the end of the year. Executive Director Rourke added that SmartWatt was subcontracted out by National Grid and will be doing the audit, design and the installation. The next resolution will be to pay the next task order of \$1.3M to install the solar system at the Sewer District’s WWTP.

MISCELLANEOUS

EPA Administrative Order – Motion to Recommend Execution. Executive Director Rourke said this was discussed at last month’s meeting. The EPA issued an administrative order on top of the consent order that DEC issued us. Attached to the agenda packet was (2) pages out of the consent order referencing the compliance requirements. There are no fines associated with this administrative order, just a schedule of compliance. Executive Director Rourke said part of the administrative order is to modify the Sewer District’s Sewer User Ordinance (SUO) by the end of March. The timeline of getting that passed is relatively quick and so the Sewer Use Ordinance Committee will be meeting as soon as possible to make those changes and get them to the County Attorney’s office for review. Executive Director Rourke said we will need a motion to recommend the Board of Supervisors (BOS) to execute an administrative order issued by the EPA.

Commissioner Loewenstein made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to execute an administrative order on consent with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address the Sewer District’s local ammonia limits as well as amend and update The Saratoga County Sewer District’s Sewer Use Ordinance Rules and Regulations. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. Discussion involved timing and requirements for approving the Sewer Use Ordinance (SUO) depending on the type of law. Executive Director Rourke said he would do research on what is needed and can revisit it at next month’s meeting if more action is needed and possibly amend the date with the EPA. Commissioner Loewenstein amended his motion to forward to a recommendation to the Law and Finance Committee conditioned upon clarification of the public comment and/or public hearing process. Commissioner Cannon seconded the amended motion. Motion passed: 8 Ayes, 1 Absent, 0 Nays.

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Hartnett took an opportunity to thank Anne Gorman, Confidential Secretary and William Bills, Assistant Maintenance Manager for being extremely helpful to him in the dedication process. He said it was a pleasure working with them and asked that we pass that along to Maintenance Manager Bills as he was not present. Attorney Hartnett said there was nothing else to report other than one (1) dedication for the Town of Ballston.

DEDICATIONS

Desrosiers – Eastline Road Subdivision – Town of Ballston – Traditional Homebuilders & Development, Inc. requested dedication of the sanitary sewer infrastructure servicing Desrosiers – Eastline Road Subdivision in the Town of Ballston. *A motion to accept Resolution 1-2020 dedication of Desrosiers-Eastline Road Subdivision was made by Commissioner Doyle and seconded by Commissioner Cannon. No discussion. Resolution 1-2020 accepting dedication of Desrosiers-Eastline Road Subdivision consisting of (30) manholes and approximately 4,010 ft of 8” SDR-26 gravity main, approximately 70 ft of 10” DR-11 gravity main and approximately 260 ft of 10” SDR-26 gravity main in the Town of Ballston passed: 8 Ayes, 1 Absent, 0 Nays.*

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

**Next meeting February 6, 2020
3:00 P.M. meeting at the Treatment Plant**