

**APPROVED MINUTES**

**SARATOGA COUNTY SEWER COMMISSION No. 1  
MINUTES OF JULY 7, 2022  
3:00 PM at the Treatment Plant**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Howe, Bisnett, Butler, Doyle, Keegan and Lansing

**COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED:** Fillion, Hotaling

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dan Rourke P.E., Executive Director; Anne Gorman, Confidential Secretary; Gene Hutchings, Chief Operator; Nathan Morris, Assistant Chief Operator; William Bills, Maintenance Manager; Andrew Proler, Assistant County Attorney

Chairman Howe welcomed everyone to the July 7, 2022 Saratoga County Sewer Commission meeting.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Led by Commissioner Doyle

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS:** Chairman Howe said he hopes everyone is having a great summer. He said the plant has been running well. Chief Operator, Gene Hutchings said there are no major issues to report.

Chairman Howe asked for a motion to approve the June 9<sup>th</sup> minutes.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 9, 2022.** *Commissioner Lansing made a motion to approve the minutes of June 9, 2022. Commissioner Keegan seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes of June 9, 2022 were approved: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

**HVAC, Roof Replacement Design** – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. The engineer emailed him today and said we should have final plans and a revised cost estimate by July 15, 2022 that will lead us into understanding more how we want to phase that work based on cost and based on the status of our HVAC units here and which ones need to be repaired and/or replaced.

**Interceptor Relining Phase VIIB** – Motion to Award Engineering Services – Executive Director Rourke said we did a change order to the design contract, which we have done in the past under a previous administration and county attorney. The current county attorney thought we should go out for RFP to meet general municipal law since it wasn’t included in the initial RFP. We received 3 proposals, 2 were valid and 1 was not a valid proposal. The 2 valid proposals received were from Weston and Sampson for \$346,500.00 and the other \$504,800.00 from MJ Engineering. Executive Director Rourke said the reason for the difference was twofold, the difference of cost per hour and the construction administration costs. He said we asked for a specified number of hours and a specific NICET level of inspection in the proposal. MJ Engineering provided a NICET level 3 and level 4, which Executive Director said he thought were the proper levels but it comes with a little higher cost. He said the main difference for the 2,800 hours we asked for the lower NICET level 3, MJ’s cost was \$115/hour and W&S’s cost was \$80/hour and the inspector they were providing was a NICET level 2.

Executive Director said the other side of this was the construction administration number was double for MJ Engineering and he thinks that was in part because they understand the complexity of the project. He added this design has been going on for 2.5 years and MJ has been with this project from the beginning, including meeting with all municipalities effected and therefore his recommendation was to award to MJ Engineering and Land Surveying P.C. for inspection services related to the Sewer Districts Interceptor Rehabilitation Project even though their cost was bit higher. At this juncture we award to MJ for a total cost of \$504,800.00. Chairman Howe entertained a motion.

*Commissioner Doyle made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to authorize an agreement with MJ Engineering and Land Surveying P.C. for inspection services related to the Sewer Districts Interceptor Rehabilitation Project for a total cost not to exceed \$504,800.00. Commissioner Bisnett seconded the motion. Discussion involved NICET levels, MJ Engineering being with us from the beginning and understanding where the pinch points are and he felt catching up another firm to this point would be a heavy lift. Also discussed was an inquiry if justification was needed for awarding the higher cost as opposed to the lower cost. Executive Director Rourke said with professional services it is not just necessarily based on price, it is more based on value. He said that was spelled out pretty clearly in NYS procurement law. Commissioner Doyle suggested having an attachment stating we went with the higher price because of the reasons discussed. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

**Riverside (Stillwater) I&I Reduction** – Executive Director Rourke said this project is approximately 85% complete. This has been a mostly smooth project, and hopefully will continue to completion.

**Saratoga Springs Pump Station and F.M Evaluation and Design** – Executive Director Rourke said they had a good meeting last week with the engineer, Weston & Sampson and they are going to look at revising the cost estimate due to the crazy bidding environment. He said the goal is to still go to bid this year for this work.

## **2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**Secondary Clarifier Gate and MCC Replacement** – Executive Director Rourke said this project is still on hold and we are still sitting on 95% plans to review and will continue to move forward now that we know the ammonia project schedule.

**CMMS & Asset Management Implementation** – Executive Director Rourke said our goal last month was to have a demonstration today but Andrew Marsden, Assistant Maintenance Manager is out this month so we will hold off on the demonstration until next month's meeting, but everything is still progressing nicely. We are in the process of ordering laptops and tablets for staff to utilize this software properly.

**Technical Determination of Local Limits/Inhibition Testing** – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said we are working through some of the new requirements of our new SPDES permit to ensure they are included in the determination as well as looking into potential impacts of other chemicals that are atypical and potentially cause harm to our process. We have a couple meetings slated with the engineer to continue moving this work forward.

**Building 2 Roof Replacement** – Executive Director Rourke reported the contractor is on site now performing this work. A kickoff meeting was held today and they said the work should be complete in 4 weeks.

## 2022 CAPITAL PROJECTS

**Biosolids Handling Facility** – Executive Director Rourke reported we are still continuing to attend all technical sessions outlining the different technology that is being proposed for this facility. Right now we are listening to different style of tanks that can be utilized and working through options to 30% design and basis of report.

**Ammonia related WWTP Upgrades** – Executive Director Rourke said here we have a motion to increase project cost and motion to award to all low bidders, so this will end up being (5) separate motions. He said last month we talked about different bids received and the increase in project cost. He said a letter from the engineer was attached to the agenda packet recommending awards to all contractors. In order to award we need to update two (2) other resolutions as well. The first resolution is the project resolution increasing the project cost and setting a public hearing for Wednesday, July 13, 2022, after the law and finance meeting and the second resolution is the bond resolution to get to the total cost for the project, which bond counsel is currently working on. Chairman Howe entertained the motions.

*Commissioner Bisnett made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors authorizing an amendment for the maximum project cost for the proposed Ammonia Removal Project for Saratoga County Sewer District. The maximum project cost has increased from \$33,100,000.00 to \$44,469,202.00. The additional bonding amount approved will be \$11,369,202.00. The new maximum project cost is based on actual bids received. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

*Commissioner Keegan made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors authorizing a supplemental bond resolution for the increased project cost for the proposed Ammonia Removal Project for Saratoga County Sewer District to ensure project funding. The maximum project cost has increased from \$33,100,000.00 to \$44,469,202.00. The additional bonding amount approved will be \$11,369,202.00 based on actual bids received. Commissioner Lansing seconded the motion. Discussion involved inquiry budgeting for cost, updating the financial plan model, absorbing any cost as we move forward and the \$18M grant funding received for the project. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

*Commissioner Doyle made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to authorize an agreement with Jersen Construction Group, LLC for general construction related to the Ammonia Removal Project in an amount not to exceed \$35,251,000.00. Commissioner Bisnett seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed: 5 Ayes, 1 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

*Commissioner Bisnett made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to authorize an agreement with Stilsing Electric, Inc. for electrical work related to the Ammonia Removal Project in an amount not to exceed \$8,406,202.00. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

*Commissioner Lansing made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to authorize an agreement with J. W. Danforth Company for mechanical construction work related to the Ammonia Removal Project in an amount not to exceed \$473,000.00. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

Executive Director Rourke said the only thing he wanted to add is there was a 4<sup>th</sup> prime contract for plumbing and we did receive a bid for \$339,000.00 from W.M. Schultz. All parties here have agreed to hold their price verbally and we are hoping to get that in writing. He said W.M. Shultz is likely going to withdraw their plumbing bid after the 45 day window. We are not awarding that 4<sup>th</sup> contract now. It doesn't affect our

schedule, it is a very minor part of the contract and we are going to review Wicks Law to see if we have to go out to bid again for that contract. If we do not have to go out to bid again or if no bids are received, we want to ensure that maybe the general contractor or mechanical contractor can absorb that work possibly.

Commissioner Bisnett inquired if this would take care of 8.2 for Global Foundries (GF). Executive Director Rourke said not necessarily as we do not know what their discharge rate is going to be yet. Commissioner Bisnett asked if there was a way to easily modify this project because they want to be online by the end of 2024. Executive Director Rourke said a letter was sent to different planning boards and with information he received to be able to generate that letter, GF has committed to pretreat for ammonia. Unfortunately it was just a snap shot of potential systems and a less than 20 parts per million discharge of ammonia, which still equates to 300-400 lbs. With that, Executive Director Rourke said we should be able to handle that with this but we still need more information and he is holding GF to the response letter until the end of the year.

**Aeration Tank Improvements** – Executive Director Rourke reported Ramboll was on site today to go over the permanent dewatering system that they are going to install so we can maintain those tanks. They will review the information that was gathered and get back to us on a 30% design.

**D&R P.S. Upgrade** – Executive Director Rourke reported this project is almost 100% designed. We are just finalizing a couple of things like generator location and spacing as well as possible future grinder installation, but the design is very close to being completed.

**Capacity Evaluation** – Executive Director Rourke reported we are still working on information request after the kick off meeting to continue moving that project forward.

**Contract 22** – Executive Director Rourke reported there has been no movement yet. We are waiting for the contractor to provide us with a schedule to do that work.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

**New England Waste Services of ME, Inc., D/B/A Casella Organics** – Motion to amend Resolution 216-2022 to increase the demurrage fee and include a diesel index price increase. Executive Director Rourke informed the Commission that last month's motion for our biosolids hauling contract stated a demurrage fee of \$40.00/half hour and it was supposed to be \$55/half hour. The resolution also did not include the cost increase for the diesel index included in the bids and therefore, we need a motion to amend resolution 216-2022 to increase the demurrage fee and include the diesel index price increase. Executive Director Rourke said we just need a motion to amend resolution 216-2022 to include the demurrage fee and diesel index. Chairman Howe entertained a motion.

*Commissioner Bisnett made a motion to forward a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to amend resolution 216-2022 for New England Waste Services of ME Inc. DBA Casella Organics to provide transportation and disposal of SCSD's #1 biosolids at a cost of \$164.21 wet ton and to increase the demurrage fee from \$40/half hour to \$55/half hour and also include a diesel index cost added for all fuel costs above \$3.75/gallon. Commissioner Lansing seconded the motion. No discussion. Motion passed: 6 Ayes, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

**ATTORNEY REPORT** – Attorney Proler said he had nothing to report other than a few dedications he is working on but none that are ready for today.

**DEDICATIONS** – None

*A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Doyle and seconded by Commissioner Bisnett. The motion passed unanimously.*

**Next meeting August 4, 2022  
3:00 P.M. at the Treatment Plant**