

APPROVED MINUTES

SARATOGA COUNTY SEWER COMMISSION No. 1 MINUTES OF April 27, 2023 3:00 PM at the Treatment Plant

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bisnett, Butler, Doyle, Hotaling, Lansing, Fillion and Smassanow

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Keegan & Scirocco

ALSO PRESENT: Dan Rourke P.E., Executive Director; Gene Hutchings, Chief Operator; Nathan Morris, Assistant Chief Operator; William Bills, Maintenance Manager; Andrew Marsden, Assistant Maintenance Manager; Mike Naughton, Assistant County Attorney, Steve Bulger, County Administrator.

Chairman Bisnett welcomed everyone to the April 27, 2023 Saratoga County Sewer Commission meeting.

Chairman Bisnett called the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS: None

Chairman Bisnett asked for a motion to approve the March 30, 2023 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of March 30, 2023. *Commissioner Lansing made a motion to approve the minutes of March 30, 2023. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes of March 30, 2023 were approved: 6 Ayes, 1 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS

HVAC Upgrade at WWTP – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update and stated that we have issued the notice to proceed as of April 12th. The contractors are working on their schedule of values and submittals with the engineer and the project is moving forward.

Interceptor Relining Phase VIIB – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update and stated that the project is still going well. He said the contractors are making their way through the southern portion of the state park now and down to North Line Road with the lining. The hope is to be done with the lining to Milton pump station by the end of May. He stated that they are working on restoring the previously disturbed areas where the work has been completed. He said that we are receiving inquiries now that the weather is improving and he is relaying that the contractor needs time to come back to do the restoration work and they need nice weather for paving and seeding. Commissioner Smassanow asked if there was a need to leave any of the stone. Executive Director Rourke said that there is some crushed stone that has been placed and they are putting in some culverts but that is mainly for our access to our infrastructure.

Saratoga Springs Pump Station and F.M Evaluation and Design – Executive Director Rourke asked for a Motion to Award two contracts. He stated that during the initial bidding no one bid on the HVAC or plumbing

portions of the contract. He said that we re-bid those two contracts. There was only one bidder for both contracts, WM Schultz, who is also the general contractor. He stated that the numbers seemed high, as they were double the engineer's estimate and he is trying to understand why. Their response was that they bid it straight up and did not bid it knowing they already had the GC job. Executive Director Rourke presented an email from the engineer that stated some of the areas where we could save money. Also in the email, the engineer agrees that we should award these contracts for fear that the price may continue to go up if we bid again. Executive Director Rourke said that the fund balance appropriation for these contracts totaled \$1,611,000.00 which would bring the balance from \$16.49 million to \$14.88 million. The commission had discussion with regard to getting accurate estimates so as to not keep taking from the fund balance. They also discussed why the estimates are coming in higher than the Engineering firm originally estimated.

MOTION TO AWARD – *Commissioner Doyle made a motion to award. Commissioner Lansing seconded the motion. The motion was approved: 7 Ayes, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Secondary Clarifier Gate and MCC Replacement – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said we are working on getting contracts and getting a pre-construction meeting on the calendar.

Technical Determination of Local Limits/Inhibition Testing – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that we are finalizing our final IPP and local limits report. He said that the EPA finally got back with comments after about 6 months. He said the inhibition testing is starting to be scheduled for denitrification and should happen in the next couple of months. He said we are still working with Global Foundries to understand what can be done there to assist in our ability to treat here.

2022 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Biosolids Handling Facility – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said comments are back to the engineer on the BODR and we are waiting to finalize those comments and make any changes. He stated that the 60% design will be the next step.

Ammonia related WWTP Upgrades – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that bi-weekly meetings are continuing. He said the projected work through the middle of May is to continue to dewater the site as well as dig to the footing elevation of the new south aeration basins.

Aeration Tank Improvements – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said we had a meeting on April 14th with the engineer to go over comments. They are incorporating some of the changes we asked for and resending final drawings in the next couple of weeks.

D&R P.S. Upgrade – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said the contracts are currently being generated.

Capacity Evaluation – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that the engineer is currently working to set up a meeting with Global Foundries to look at the possibility of joint funding of the pilot system. He said they have also helped us with a spill response plan for our chemical bulk storage program.

523 South Main Abatement – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said that the contractor has proven difficult to get a hold of. He stated that we received the partially executed contract today but we still need more paperwork to get this project off the ground.

2023 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Moreau Forcemain Extension – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said the contract is fully executed and work will begin next month.

Ace Pump Station Upgrade – Executive Director Rourke asked for a Motion to Award two contracts. He stated that this came as a necessity due to the Moreau forcemain extension. He presented a packet to the board containing two letters from the engineer recommending we award the low bidder for general contractor to Rozell East Inc., and the second low bidder for electrical contract to Gross Electric. The general contractor bid was \$1,160,000.00 and the electrical contractor bid was \$177,777.00 for a total project cost of \$1,337,777.00. He stated that this would be the last project for the year in which the fund balance would be utilized.

Motion to Award – *Commissioner Doyle made a motion to award two contracts. Commissioner Fillion seconded the motion. The motion was approved: 7 Ayes, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Heritage Springs Valuation – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said we are in the process of scheduling meetings between Heritage Springs and our consultant, Raftelis.

Ballston Lake – Executive Director Rourke requested a discussion with regard to waiving the connection fee. He stated that he told a homeowner that he would bring this to the board for discussion. He stated that the Town of Ballston did a project around Ballston Lake. He said that he heard from several people that the connection fee for us was unknown and it is expensive for the homeowners. They would like for us to waive our permit fee. Executive Director Rourke said that he explained that there are reasons for our permit fees as it pays for our quality assurance program as well as our administrative fees. He said he does not agree that we should waive it but wanted to bring it up for discussion. The commission discussed the cost of the permit which is \$500.00. They also discussed the work involved which includes locating and inspecting the connection. Commissioner Doyle stated that he does not want the fee to be waived. The commission agreed and no waiver was granted.

Biosolids Contract Extension – Executive Director Rourke asked to have a discussion as the price goes up year after year. He stated that we got a letter to extend at the current price. He said that this is something that cost us about \$3.5 million per year to get rid of our biosolids. He stated that when he first started here the cost was \$78.00 per ton and is now up to \$164.00 per ton. He said he wanted to bring this up so everyone was aware. Commissioner Hotaling asked when the contract had to be extended. Executive Director Rourke said that he reached out to another vendor to see if they would be able to bid on this but they said no. Executive Director Rourke said that the contract extension is for one year and then it would have to go back out to bid.

Asset Management Software – Executive Director Rourke asked for Motion to Amend Contract. He stated that the vendor we were using merged with another company so we need a resolution for the name change.

Motion to Amend – *Commissioner Doyle made a motion to amend. Commissioner Hotaling seconded the motion. The motion was approved: 7 Ayes, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

Financial Model 2024-2029 Forecast – Executive Director Rourke wanted to have a discussion with regard to the fund balance and future spending. He said that he wants to have Raftelis back to take a look at our financial model. They would look at the revenue side and expense side. He stated that it would be a minor

contract under \$15,000.00 and we don't have to act on it today. The commission discussed the need to keep the fund balance for unexpected expenditures and possible revenue generators if that were needed.

ATTORNEY REPORT – Attorney Naughton discussed the proposal for a tax exemption for sewer user charges for emergency responders. He stated that the sewer district is not listed in the statute as one of the governing bodies. He recommended that we do not move forward with the tax exemption. He said that if the commission would like to provide a tax break it is possible to do it through the scale of charges. The commission discussed that numbers were needed to determine the financial impact. They agreed that they would look at the numbers and then make a determination.

DEDICATIONS – None

County Administrator Bulger wanted to thank the commission on behalf of Chairman Kusnierz, Board of Supervisors, for all the work we've been doing on the Moreau extension. Chairman Kusnierz could not attend as he is on the water authority and they were meeting at the same time. He said that he is very pleased with the cost savings we've been providing. County Administrator Bulger mentioned that Global Foundries bought 800 acres for \$13 million dollars. He mentioned that the County recognizes the importance of the relationship with Global and all the expansion that is going on.

Executive Director Rourke thanked everyone. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Butler and seconded by Commissioner Smassanow. The motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting May 25, 2023
3:00 P.M. at the Treatment Plant**