

APPROVED MINUTES

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Bisnett, Doyle, Lansing, Keegan, Hotaling, Smassanow, Butler and Scirocco

COMMISSIONERS EXCUSED: Fillion

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.

Chairman Bisnett welcomed everyone to the July 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 June 29, 2023 minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of June 29, 2023. *Commissioner Doyle made a motion to approve the minutes of June 29, 2023. Commissioner Smassanow seconded the motion. No discussion. The minutes of June 29, 2023 were approved: 7 Ayes, 0 Abstain, 2 Absent, 0 Nays.*

2020 CAPITAL PROJECTS

HVAC Upgrade at WWTP – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update and stated that there has been a delay in getting the mechanical contractor on board. He said that he talked to the engineer and they stated that the delay is because an or-equal HVAC product was submitted. The contractor is finding out if the York equipment is equivalent to the Carrier equipment that they specified. He said that the electrician has wired up the fire alarm system and they are waiting on directive of what equipment is coming so they can wire to it and put conduit into it. Executive Director Rourke said the project is moving slowly but he is glad they are doing their due diligence.

Interceptor Relining Phase VIIB – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update and stated we got permission from the railroad to start fusing pipe down by Coons Crossing. He said we are still waiting for agreements from the two railroads, CSX and CP. He stated that there are two different agreements. An agreement to be on their property, which they got for the fusing, and an agreement to actually do anything under the railroad. He stated that the liner work requires a separate agreement. He said he had meetings with DOT and the city of Mechanicville to go over the scheduling. He said that we will have to see if we get the

agreement in the next couple of weeks or the project will be delayed as we do not want to be working in the dead of winter.

Saratoga Springs Pump Station and F.M Evaluation and Design – Motion to Award – Executive Director Rourke asked for a motion to award the HVAC and Plumbing contracts. He reminded the board that we went out to bid for this one time and we did not receive any bids. He said we went out to bid a second time and received one bid which was the general contractor bidding the HVAC and Plumbing work. He stated that he thought those bids were high, according to the engineers estimate, they were twice what we thought. He stated that this is the same engineer that we have had issues with cost estimation. He stated that he has had a lot of meetings to understand what the contractor’s mindset was. He stated that the meetings went well and there are potential savings. He said that as the work progresses there are scope adjustments that can be approved. Executive Director Rourke stated that it makes sense to award the contracts and look at the actual changes after the fact. He stated that he has looked at some of the capital projects and engineer projects that he had slated for this year and will be shifting some of that around to pay for this work and do some of that work next year. Executive Director Rourke asked for a motion to award the 2 contracts to W.M. Schultz, the HVAC contract in the amount of \$1,012,000.00 and the Plumbing contract in the amount of \$599,000.00.

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

Commissioner Lansing arrived at the meeting.

2021 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Secondary Clarifier Gate and MCC Replacement – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that the change order that he is about to talk about is less than 10%. He stated that he typically brings these to the commission and that this project is very large so 10% is still a lot of money. He stated that we bid the project out to replace clarifiers 1-3 and to do upgrades on 4-8. He stated that we have three different kinds of clarifiers right now. He said we bid with one manufacturer for 1-3 and had no preference for 4-8. He said that the bids came back and 1 manufacturer said that they were comfortable taking on all the liability, not only the new ones for 1-3 but all of the work on 4-8 as well. He stated that the manufacturer will have to make modifications to clarifiers 6, 7 & 8 as they are a different manufacturer. Executive Director Rourke mentioned that he met with the manufacturer and decided that he was ok with 1-3 but we did not want to get into the “one-off” construction where one manufacturer is modifying their design to fit this drive. Executive Director Rourke said he asked the manufacturer what it would take to use their drives instead of the “one-off” drives. He stated that if we change to stainless steel weirs to FRP weirs, that ends up being a wash. The actual change order for \$311,728.00 is to install those drives. He stated that at the end of the contract we will basically have 8 new clarifiers, all one manufacturer. He stated that the change order would bring the contract to \$8,657,728.00. Commissioner Hotaling asked if we were changing the drives on 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8 to the same drives as 1, 2 & 3. He questioned if SCADA will talk to it and Executive Director Rourke said yes. He also mentioned that we got a 2-year warranty as opposed to a 1-year warranty. Chairman Bisnett asked if the 10% on change orders was 10% every time or cumulative. Executive Director Rourke explained that it is 10% one time on the original contract cost. Commissioner Hotaling asked if we would have to pay General Controls to reconfigure everything. Executive Director Rourke stated that it is no different in terms of added work for them. Commissioner Doyle asked if parts would be available for the next ten years and if the manufacture was reputable. Executive Director Rourke said that the manufacturer was a known manufacturer and should be around in the near future. Commissioner Keegan also questioned the reliability of the manufacturer. Executive Director Rourke stated that we already have Walker drives on 2 clarifiers that were installed in 1996 and we have not had a lot of issues with them.

2022 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Biosolids Handling Facility –Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that he spoke to the project manager today and they are still working on 60% design. He said that final tech memos on structural instrumentation should be coming in the next couple of weeks.

Ammonia related WWTP Upgrades –Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that the first concrete pour took place. He said that they were fighting the weather a bit with all the rain but there were no big hiccups to date and they are moving forward.

Aeration Tank Improvements – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said he heard from the engineer today and the plans should be final by next week. He said that will allow us to give a price to the ammonia contractor for the permanent dewatering system and the aeration buildings.

D&R P.S. Upgrade – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said he had a pre-con meeting and all contracts are finalized and submittals can begin and work can start at that pump station.

Capacity Evaluation – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He stated that it is still on pause because it is tied to the Global Foundries 8.2 work. It falls to when the chip funding announcements are going to be made.

2023 CAPITAL PROJECTS

Moreau Forcemain Extension – Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said the contractor is working up around Ballard Road right now and that they bored under the road. He stated that he had a couple of coordination meeting with DPW as they are also paving Ballard Road. He stated that they have been working well together with traffic control.

Ace Pump Station Upgrade – WWSA Agreement - Motion to Authorize Chairman to Enter into Agreement - Executive Director Rourke asked for a motion. He stated that we are upgrading the ACE Pump Station that is technically WWSA property. He explained that the agreement contains a license portion that allows us to go in and rip out what is there to see what we are paying for. The agreement also spells out some small portions of the dedication. He said the responsibilities are spelled out regarding the capital fund balance and also contains a deadline as well as other ancillary responsibilities regarding owning and operating the ACE Pump Station and providing deeds and easements. He said the agreement is still in draft form and is in WWSA's hands right now and we have not heard anything back from them yet. Commissioner Doyle questioned if Forest Grove was a privately owned line and what it amounts to. Executive Director Rourke replied that the Forest Grove portion is up in the air. He stated that it is not necessarily that we won't operate and maintain it, but more that WWSA spent around \$1M boring under US 87 to make the Forest Grove project happen. He stated that there is an administrative fee collection that happens with each home that connects. They will have to pay not only the original connection fee but also a higher fee to recoup the \$1M. Executive Director Rourke stated that he was not sure how that mechanism was going to work. He stated that the \$1M will be coming to us but they are figuring out how the funds will be transferred between the two entities.

Motion to Award – *Commissioner Lansing made a motion to Approve. Commissioner Doyle seconded the motion. The motion was approved: 8 Ayes, 0 Abstain, 1 Absent, 0 Nays.*

MISCELLANEOUS

Heritage Springs Valuation –Executive Director Rourke gave a status update. He said there are no updates and that we are still waiting for the final report.

ATTORNEY REPORT – None

DEDICATIONS – None

Executive Director Rourke thanked everyone. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and the motion passed unanimously.

**Next meeting August 31, 2023
3:00 P.M. at the Treatment Plant**