

Public Utilities Committee Meeting

July 13, 2017, 6:30 pm

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chairperson Clem Gottsacker

Roll Call of Officers: Officers present were Chairperson Clem Gottsacker, and Trustee Rose Sauers. A quorum was established. Also in attendance were Water Superintendent, Daniel Birenbaum, and Wastewater Superintendent, Paul Bley. Also present from McMahon Engineering were Anthony Kappell and Nick Vande Hey.

Open Meeting Law Compliance Check: This meeting is in compliance with the Open Meetings Law of the State of Wisconsin.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag, Moment of Silence: All in attendance stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

5) Approval of Minutes: Public Utilities – February 6, 2017 – A motion was made by Gottsacker and seconded by Sauers to approve the Public Utilities meeting minutes from February 6, 2017. Ayes – Gottsacker and Sauers: Noes – none; Abstain – none. Motion carried

6) Agenda Items

a) Tony Kappell from McMahon explained that the Village was reissued a Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) Permit Effluent Phosphorus Compliance in 2013. There is a compliance schedule for effluent phosphorus issued with the permit. Currently the Village must meet a limit of 1 milligram per liter. That limit is being reduced down to .075 milligrams per liter which is a pretty substantial reduction and very difficult to achieve without substantial improvements to the process. Within the permit there was a five year compliance schedule. The Village is in year four of the compliance schedule. Over the first two years they were looking at the plant itself and looking at optimizing treatment. Seeing how much phosphorus level could be reduced. That led to switching to chemicals at the wastewater treatment facility for phosphorus precipitation and settling. Currently the plant is using a chemical called Sorbex. Bley explained that using Sorbex in the treatment process lowered the phosphorous levels, but it is a very costly chemical. Last year McMahon put together a preliminary compliance alternative plan which basically looked at alternatives available to the Village for ultimate compliance of .075 mg/l. That including looking at modifications for improvements to the treatment facility, looked at pollutant trading, adaptive management, and also the state-wide variance which the Village is eligible for based on median household income and sewer rates. This year the final compliance alternatives plan is due at the end of September. Sauers asked about the penalties if the Village does not comply. Vande Hey replied that the State can issue daily fines, the maximum being \$10,000 per day. Bley shared that he has complied with the .075 mg/l reading only a couple of times and added that the current facility is not capable of reaching this compliance. Kappell explained that the primary and secondary treatment processes have been updated, but the tertiary process will need updating in order to meet requirements. Kappell and Vande Hey provided reports and explained different options:

- Continuous Backwash Upflow Sand Filter: This is a proven technology, but also the most expensive option at \$2.5 million for the upgrade.
- Polymer Media Disk Filter: This would require chemical conditioning. Cost of this option would be \$1.5 million. This system could be installed in the existing building with an additional smaller building for the chemical conditioning system.
- Cloth Media Disk filter: cost of \$1.5 million. A new building would also need to be added for this option.
- Statewide phosphorous variance: The Village would need DNR and EPA approval. Then pay \$50 per pound for phosphorous discharge over an interim limit. This variance would be available to the Village over three permit terms or fifteen years. Review for compliance would be required after the third term. This would be an estimated fee of \$6,500 per year.

But could increase up to \$19,000 per year. The Village would still need to complete upgrades during this interim in order to be compliant.

- **Water Quality Trading:** exchange of pollutant reduction credits for phosphorus and/or sediments through an agreement with neighboring farmers to reduce phosphorus levels in water runoff. This plan offers multiple options available to reduce polluted runoff which offsets the amount of phosphorus reduction required by the sewer treatment plant. Vande Hey pointed out that the reduction numbers that were provided are based on the plants current capacity. This plan would need to be in place by 2022.

The Village will need to have a final draft of the Compliance Alternative Plan in place by the end of September. The committee requested that Kappell and Vande Hey return and present the information to the full board.

- b) Motion to Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm was made by Sauers and seconded by Gottsacker. Ayes – Gottsacker and Sauers; Noes – none; Abstain – none. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie D Lesar
Village Clerk
Approved at Public Utilities Meeting 8-23-2017