

Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1

Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2023

I. Call to order

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on April 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Rensselaer County Sewer District Conference Room.

II. Roll call

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Miner, Bott, Dambrose, Dolgin, Lourinia, Mainello, Poletto, and Masone. Others present: Tom Garrett- Siemens, Dan Durfee-CDM Smith, Derrick Gardner, Jaime Thomas, and Harry Tutunjian.

III. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Miner led the Pledge of Allegiance

IV. Adoption of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the March meeting were approved after a motion from Bott and a second from Masone.

V. Reports

Siemens presentation- Dan Durfee of CDM Smith distributed the project update booklet. Dan said that they are still waiting on more results Dekra on their dust testing. He said that Komline must come in and examine the dryer internally to check for wear. The dryer would need to be shut down for a period of time while the examination takes place.

Dan said that the sludge grinders and pumps are old and in poor condition. Poletto asked if they are original to the plant, Dan said yes. Miner asked what would happen if they fail. Dan said that it would cause disruption to the plant operations, cause digester issues, and sludge will build up. Sludge would have to be trucked out and it would be costly. Dan said we should be proactive and begin the process of replacing them.

Poletto asked why this wasn't identified sooner. Tom Garrett said that it was identified earlier. Dan Durfee said that they proposed replacement during an earlier energy performance contract, and that the RCSD chose not to act on all parts of the proposal. Poletto asked if a new grinder would eliminate screening issues. Dan said it would still

be a problem. Dan said that CDM will have a priority list at the May meeting. Vince Apa is concerned with staffing and morale at the plant, and is concerned that key staff could be leaving. Tom Garrett said there is excess cash flow that they can use to advance these improvements along with CDM if we wish.

Staff Issues - Our Lab Director Jennifer Theakos is retiring this Friday. We interviewed several candidates and offered the job to one individual who accepted, then rejected the position. We then offered the position to another candidate who was short a few hours of chemistry courses, but had good lab experience. We offered the position with the condition that she obtains the needed credits and required certification.

There are several promotional vacancies and there are still no promotional civil service lists. Human Resources is working on ordering new test from NYS.

Siemens- Dryer Replacement Project- Covered earlier during CDM/Siemens presentation. Tutunjian added that CDM is working with the City of Troy to see if the clean water sludge from the water treatment plant can be combined with our biosolid to make a desirable “top soil” like product. Early testing resulted in an attractive product.

Troy Pump Station Project Status- The latest communication received is as follows:

Tom

I was informed this morning by Mike Gallo that most of the items requested by the owner were received last Friday. There are three missing items that are expected to arrive in the next two weeks.

I will report as I know more.

Joel Howard

Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects- We still have not received final EFC approval. Derrick has been informed that no approvals will be issued until the state budget is adopted. DEC is pressuring us to begin reporting on our grant management and distribution. They are threatening to pull our funding. We are arguing that we can't administer the grant until we have final approvals to proceed. Tutunjian has been given access to the NYS Grants Gateway and will attempt to begin the reporting process.

Biosolid Disposal- On March 29th Cloverleaf Nurseries removed all 860 yards of material in our storage shed. It will be used on their commercial tree nursery off Route 9J in East Greenbush/Castleton. It was equal to 430 tons. They charged us \$7 per yard or \$6020 under the emergency order. It would have cost us nearly \$110,000 if we had Casella haul it at the premium rate they wanted to charge for they called a substandard product that would have been disposed of in a landfill. Siemens has agreed to credit us the amount we paid.

VI. Old Business

Troy Sewer Billing and Rental Agreements - We received a check for 154,876.86 for leachate treatment. We are treating it as a partial payment. Jaime worked with our account clerk Alexis to respond to Troy with the following language:

We will hold your check (\$154,876.86) for ten days. Not hearing from you, we will conclude that after your partial payment, you agree that the balance due from the City of Troy is \$1,084,137.99.

VII. New Business

a. Resolution recommending the award of the Electrical Maintenance Plan

Jaime Thomas advised the commissioners about the resolution and said that the body could act either way. Chairmain Miner asked that any commissioner with questions or opinions should raise them now. Commissioner Bott said that HVES has great experience and that DLC is just starting in this area of expertise. He added that he is concerned with the issues raised about their previous work at the plant and that bad things can happen when mistakes like that are made.

Chairman Miner stated that this isn't his area of expertise, but the letter from Mike Wilcox should be taken seriously.

Bott said that HVES has been responsive at all hours and during emergencies. Jaime Thomas said that the 50 mile radius requirement could play a role in the decision making. Commissioner Masone said that he would defer to the professional opinions of others. Bott stated that Gus from HVES has tremendous experience.

Commissioner Poletto said that he was leaning towards the lowest bidder, but likes the fact that HVES is using locals. Commissioner Masone stated that it is worth the extra \$11,000.

Commissioner Lourinia said he would support HVES. Commissioner Mainello also said he would support HVES, and asked if this could be protested. Jaime Thomas answered, yes. Commissioner Dambrose supported HVES. Commissioner Dolgin said that HVES had great qualifications.

Chairman Miner noted that everyone present was asked their opinion, and stated that NETA certification, the 50 mile radius requirement, and the letter from Maintenance Supervisor Mike Wilcox which expressed concerns with previous work performed at the plan by DLC, all led him to support HVES.

Chairman Miner asked for a motion: Commissioner Bott made a motion that was seconded by Mainello. After additional discussion and the clarification that the body is only voting on a resolution recommending a company to the Legislature, and not actually awarding the contract, it was adopted unanimously.

VIII. Open Discussion

Tutunjian stated that there are still issues with the internet at the treatment plant, and solutions are being explored.

He also stated that funding that was requested from Congresswoman Stefanik's office was not advanced as a part of her request to Congress. Her office did promise to continue to explore other funding streams.

Tutunjian stated that there were two concerns expressed about accessibility to the conference room at the sewer plant, and that should be held in ADA compliant facilities. After some discussion it was agreed to hold the next meeting at the new county office building at 99 Troy Road in East Greenbush

IX. Next meeting: May 24, 2023 at 6pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building 99 Troy Rd. 2nd floor Conference room

X. Adjournment- Meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm after a motion from Masone and a second from Bott

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian