

# ***Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1***

## ***Meeting Minutes***

May 24, 2023

### **I. Call to order**

Chairman Miner called the regular meeting of the Rensselaer County Sewer District No. 1 to order on May 24, 2023 at 6:00 pm in the Rensselaer County Legislature Conference Room.

### **II. Roll call**

Chairman Miner conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: Miner, Bott, Dambrose, Dolgin, Lewandusky, Lourinia, Mainello, Poletto, and Masone. Others present: Tom Garrett- Siemens, 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 April meeting were approved after a motion from Mainello and a second from Poletto.

### **V. Reports**

**Siemens presentation-** Tom Garrett made the presentation on behalf of Siemens and CDM Smith. Garrett distributed the updated booklet outlining the work that has been proposed and the current status of the tasks that were outlined.

Garrett went through the tasks and reported that Task 3- Sludge Screen- has the Huber technician on site to evaluate the screen. The pilot program has been extended to allow more time to determine the best placement of the sludge screen. Chairman Miner asked if there is any idea of what the issue with the screen is. Garrett said that they do have an idea, but Dan Durfee from CDM Smith would be better suited to explain it.

Garrett also reported that they are working with the City of Troy to identify a market for the product created by mixing our biosolid with Troy's sludge from their water treatment plant..

Chairman Miner stated that we are going to need a recommendation on staffing needs at the plant, and asked if Siemens/CDM Smith could help with that. Miner said that the recommendation could go to the Legislature.

Garrett outlined several areas of the plant that they identified as having deficiencies and obsolete equipment. Commissioner Masone asked if this was the plan that they mentioned at the last meeting. Garrett said yes, but he needs authority from Siemens to proceed because the plan could cost Siemens a couple of hundred of thousand dollars.

Commissioner Poletto asked if the Huber screen is not working properly. Garrett said that pieces were broken and that they are being repaired or replaced. The screen press is being tested at different locations within the plant process to find where it will work the best.

Garrett finished his presentation and left at 6:15pm

**Staff Issues** - Our new lab director began the first week of May. Her name is Caitlin Austin and she is adapting to her new role very well. She has enrolled for an additional chemistry class at HVCC this summer. She needs this additional course to attain the credits she needs to get ELAP certification from New York State.

We have a new Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director titles that will be on the May 30<sup>th</sup> civil service agenda

There are still 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.

**Troy Pump Station Project Status-** Nothing new to report. Jaime Thomas say that it should be close to wrapping up.

**Aeration and Miscellaneous Projects-** We still have not received final EFC approval. Derrick has been informed that they will have a response for us by this Friday.

We were able to establish our account on the NYS Grants Gateway system, so the threats to revoke our grant funding have stopped.

**Internet Service at Treatment Plant-** Internet is still undependable. We received a quote to install new equipment that will hopefully resolve our issues. It is expected to cost less than \$5,000

## **VI. Old Business**

**Troy Sewer Billing and Rental Agreements-**The City of Troy has not responded to the letter we sent last month that stated: *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.*

They have not sent us any additional payments. We will continue to bill them monthly. The individual in charge of billing for Troy retired and there was a period of time when we were not getting meter readings from Troy. That caused us some unnecessary delays for us. We were able to connect with the new person and Alexis our Principal Account Clerk is working with them to get caught up. We were concerned that they may have been purposely withholding that information, but thankfully it doesn't seem that it was the case.

## **VII. New Business**

## **VIII. Open Discussion**

**IX. Next meeting: June 28, 2023 at 6pm at the Rensselaer County Office Building 99 Troy Rd. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Conference room**

**X. Adjournment-** Meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm after a motion from Bott and a second from Masone

Minutes submitted by: Harry Tutunjian