

**REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD**  
**MONDAY, JULY 20, 2009**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**PRESENT** Commissioners Blackwell, Dolmatch, Hubbard, Moffa, and Roney, Director of Municipal Operations (DMO) Lotkowitz, \*Trustee Angelillo

**ABSENT** Commissioner Blackler

**OTHERS** Cliff Abrams of 37 State Street, \*John Camp of C&S Engineering representing the Town of Skaneateles

**MINUTES**

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Roney, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting as presented.

**CRYPTOSPORIDIUM-U/V SYSTEM**

In response to Comm. Moffa asking him to report, DMO Lotkowitz said he did receive a proposal to install a system for approximately \$30,000 with the Village doing a portion of the work (electrical support and control work). Comm. Hubbard noted that the cost of the project has come down from the original estimate. In response to Comm. Dolmatch asking if there is any work to be done on the building, DMO Lotkowitz said that the units are compact and there is some piping work. It will be a stacked configuration and there is room on the north side. In response to Comm. Dolmatch asking about down time for the system, DMO Lotkowitz said it will probably be between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. He plans on installing a T one night and another T on a different night – then the remaining work can be completed more leisurely. Comm. Moffa recognized having the existing structure and some piping as advantages. Furthermore, he realizes that there are alternatives, but that we want to work with a pre-approved manufacturer. In response to Comm. Blackwell asking about the total cost, DMO Lotkowitz said it was \$750,000 but is now between \$400,000 and \$450,000. Comm. Hubbard attributed that to the fact that our Electric Department employees can do the controls. In response to Comm. Blackwell asking about the timing, DMO Lotkowitz said no later than February 1, 2010 because we have to apply for funding and be shovel-ready by then. Comm. Blackwell asked if the funding will reduce the cost from \$450,000. DMO Lotkowitz answered affirmatively, but acknowledged that he doesn't know how much we might receive. He further noted that this is DWSRF (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund) funding. Comm. Blackwell asked if the rates to the Town will reflect these costs. DMO Lotkowitz said it is supposed to work like the CT project with the capital project cost split with the Town - that's what is in the Water Contract that's not been signed. Commissioners Dolmatch and Hubbard encouraged DMO Lotkowitz to track his time; he indicated that he has a means of tracking cost electronically. Comm. Blackwell said it is important to figure out the funding before hand and he is concerned about the February 1 deadline while we have until 2012 to comply. We are quickly pressing towards February, 2010 and he encourages the Village to have a contract in place with the Town first. DMO Lotkowitz said February 1 is the funding cycle; Comm. Blackwell said we can have a game plan ready. Relative to the funding, Comm. Dolmatch asked if there is a "use it or loose it" component. Comm. Moffa said he doesn't know; DMO Lotkowitz said he can check into it. Comm. Hubbard commented that we can put the hook in the water for the grant. Comm. Blackwell reiterated that he is concerned about the February 1 timeframe. DMO Lotkowitz said the original plan was that the Village and Town would be under contract and the project cost wouldn't be in the budget, but be funded similar to the CT Project. He added that we must do something by 2012. Comm. Moffa stated he worked backwards from the deadline and there is not a lot of "slop" time. Recognizing that it is going to affect the size of the project, Comm. Hubbard said we have to finalize exhausting grants and secure a signed contract with the Town.

**TOWN LETTER RE: COMMUNITY WATER AUTHORITY**

Comm. Moffa said he'd like to address this topic in an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a response to the Town's letter. He added that he personally is displeased with the reasonableness of that letter. John Camp of C&S Engineering offered that the intent of the letter was to encourage the Village to think about a Community Water Authority. Comm. Moffa stated that a water authority would not be less expensive – a director would have to be hired and that is going to cost. Additionally, there'd be reporting

requirements that would be added work. DMO Lotkowitz reported that he went to the OCWA site and they have 130 employees. Mr. Camp said he'd like to attempt to clarify the letter's intent. The Town Board has unanimously voted to pursue two alternatives - the formation of a joint authority or establish a working relationship with OCWA. His gut feeling is towards a community cooperative system, but recognizes that there would be some complications. Comm. Moffa said we would be inclined to focus on possible savings as a cooperative, but he believes expenses would dramatically increase because of administration cost. Comm. Dolmatch said it would be helpful to understand the union context under a community authority – which employees would be represented and whether the Village is even free to concede to that. Mr. Camp said the hope is to open up dialogue; the Town feels inefficient at this time with two administrations. DMO Lotkowitz recognized that services need to be replaced; water leaks repaired, meter readings taken, etc., and as part of the distribution system would still need to be done. The Village has two Water Department laborers who receive support from the DPW and Light Department employees. Comm. Moffa recognized that there is mutual assistance between the Village and the Town now; we don't need to make a quantum leap to an authority. Perhaps there could be a reduction in staff, but what are the other costs involved. Comm. Moffa offered that possibly DMO Lotkowitz could talk to Town Water Department Foreman Bruce Famoly about a plan relative to who helps who, but it is done now. He added that it would be a positive step to have “public” persons consider the efficiencies and not get a consultant involved. We have to move forward to the February 1 date. Regarding the Town's assertion that an authority would offer the advantage of lower rates long term, DMO Lotkowitz said our water rates are lower than many communities now. Comm. Hubbard said he hesitates to compare ourselves to those that make water because we don't and get free water. DMO Lotkowitz recognized that the City of Syracuse chlorinates the water and maintains the intakes. Comm. Dolmatch said he'd like to see how the Town comes up with their water rates.

\*Mr. Camp left the meeting.

### AMR STATUS

DMO Lotkowitz reported that we did receive the additional electric meters and we have many installed. In response to Comm. Moffa, DMO Lotkowitz said no bills have been generated through the AMR system. Comm. Blackwell recalled that EJ Prescott (EJP) engaged Williamson Law Book (WLB) to set-up the interface and billing system to accept radio signals, but there haven't been any actual bills produced yet. Comm. Blackwell said it is now up to EJP to proceed and the first step should be taken, at least with a few of the meters. DMO Lotkowitz said that is the plan for this month – parallel automatic readings and physical readings of the existing AMR meters to confirm accuracy. He added that he takes responsibility that this is not moving along; Comm. Blackwell said EJP should.

Comm. Blackwell advised that he reviewed DMO Lotkowitz' spreadsheet from the last meeting and distributed and read his summary sheet that is attached to supporting documentation.

(Insert Comm. Blackwell's summary sheet)

Comm. Blackwell concluded that there is a problem with such a project overrun without a vote by the Village Board. Comm. Moffa said the Municipal Board should review this for the next meeting. DMO Lotkowitz indicated that he will look at the numbers line-by-line. Comm. Dolmatch recalled that the scope of work was increased, more meters were ordered than originally planned, and some meters were more costly. At last month's meeting, Comm. Moffa suggested that Trustee Angelillo discuss this with the Village Board and Comm. Hubbard noted that they should know that the AMR Project is going to exceed the approved amount.

### TRANSFORMER ENCLOSURE ISSUES

DMO Lotkowitz reported that he talked to David Love today who indicated that he'll provide a proposal for surveying. In response to Comm. Dolmatch, DMO Lotkowitz said there are some existing easements. Comm. Dolmatch asked what right a third party has to go on someone's property to perform work for the Village – do we have waivers. DMO Lotkowitz agreed to talk to Village Attorney Byrne.

### **SYSTEM DIAGRAM PROJECT**

The Board recalled that DMO Lotkowitz started the GIS program with the sewer system. DMO Lotkowitz reported that he is working on CMOM and will do a more detailed work plan (develop an inventory of assets, project costs, system maintenance, etc.), but is about a week behind schedule. At least initially, he will be the surveyor. Comm. Moffa noted that this will develop a good methodology for other infrastructure. DMO Lotkowitz commented that he needs to talk to someone at the DEC to get clarification about the level of detail that's necessary. Comm. Dolmatch said, more importantly, he ought to consider the end value to the Village – an accessible format detailing what we'd be looking for. Comm. Moffa commented that DMO Lotkowitz might rather tell the DEC what we are doing. DMO Lotkowitz said the goal is to project forward.

### **INFRASTRUCTURE DATA BASE PROJECT**

Comm. Moffa stated that this relates to what DMO Lotkowitz is doing as just discussed.

### **ORCHARD ROAD SANITARY SEWER STUDY-STATUS OF RESOLUTION #2009-1**

Comm. Moffa reported that he received material from Village Attorney Byrne that well documented what has happened in the past and thus he is feeling better with respect to the DEC. Village Attorney Byrne did a good job. This item can be removed from the agenda.

### **ISO-HYDRANT RATING-STATUS OF DISTRIBUTION MODEL**

DMO Lotkowitz reported that he received the water distribution study of the entire system. In response to Comm. Hubbard, DMO Lotkowitz said it does not include hydrants within the Village. DMO Lotkowitz said the downtown hydrants have not been done yet; the work has to be scheduled.

### **STATUS OF RESOLUTION #2009-2 & ELECTRIC SERVICES DISCUSSION OF MAY 18, 2009**

Relative to Resolution #2009-2 recommending to the Village Board to authorize Curt Wilson of Wilson & Wilson to update the 2005 Power Supply/Rate Impact Analysis for Adding New Load report to include current utilization and current purchase power rates both with the Skaneateles Community Recreation facility as is and with an additional rink, Comm. Moffa recognized that Trustee Angelillo was going to talk to the Village Board but isn't present to report. Comm. Hubbard said he still thinks we should have Wilson & Wilson do an update.

### **STIMULUS BILL-STATUS OF APPLICATIONS**

Regarding the DEC's notification about the Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Grant Program, DMO Lotkowitz said there are some possibilities and we will definitely make application. He further clarified for Comm. Hubbard that this is different than the DWSRF grant that we already made application for. Comm. Moffa noted that it appears that the DEC has additional money; Comm. Hubbard recognized different opportunities. In response to Comm. Hubbard asking if the WWTP needs anything, DMO Lotkowitz said a new RBC - it is a maintenance headache as the brackets keep breaking at the bolts. Comm. Hubbard asked about the bar screen at the plant. DMO Lotkowitz said it is in good shape, but did identify updating the process controls. He will talk to Zlatko and Vince to get their thoughts and input. Comm. Dolmatch said we might be able to get funding for repair of the brick chimney at the Water Plant as O'Brien & Gere recommended after their structural evaluation in 2006. DMO Lotkowitz said he'd also like to see the addition of a sprinkler system. In answer to Comm. Hubbard, Comm. Moffa said Stearns & Wheler may have some ideas as to what type of projects would be viewed by the DEC as most favorable for funding. Comm. Moffa said indications are that the waste water treatment plant is doing a good job. DMO Lotkowitz confirmed the changes in ammonia and ph levels upstream compared to downstream are miniscule. Relative to storm water implementation, Comm. Moffa asked if there is any way to do certain fixes on West Lake Street to get some money to move forward. DMO Lotkowitz answered that providing a connection point to storm water for the residents may be something. Storm water, sanitary, and water lines are going to be done on West Lake Street. With WQIP Grant Program applications due by October 16, 2009, DMO Lotkowitz will target the beginning of September to make sure the applications are well written. Comm. Moffa offered to assist DMO Lotkowitz with the applications, adding that the key is to know the right person to contact.

**NEXT MEETING**

The Board was reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 17, 2009.

\* Cliff Abrams left the meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 8:35, on the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Roney, it was resolved and unanimously carried (5-0 in favor) to enter into an Executive Session to discuss a response to the Town's letter of July 2, 2009. The Executive Session ended at 9:10 p.m.

\*Trustee Angelillo arrived.

**ADJOURNMENT**

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Roney, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Patty Couch  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer