

REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2009
7:00 P.M.

Present Commissioners Blackler, Blackwell, Dolmatch, Hubbard, and Moffa, DMO Lotkowitz, and Trustee Angelillo*

Absent Commissioner Roney

Others Cliff Abrams 37 State Street

Present

Minutes

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Moffa, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 17, 2009 were approved unanimously. (5-0)

Cryptosporidium-UV System Cost

Comm. Moffa asked DMO Lotkowitz to provide an update on cost alternatives and ideas on if the Town opts to proceed in a different manner. DMO Lotkowitz stated nothing is happening with the Town at this point. He noted that the Town is still not paying the increase in the water rate; and what they are going to do a year from now, is still up in the air. Comm. Dolmatch recollected that DMO Lotkowitz gave the Village Board a report and wondered what, if any, determination was made regarding sizing of the two pump modules. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the Town is currently 50% of the consumption of the Village. There is the potential for 4 million gallons per day (mgd) to be treated and pumped. The pumps can be either 1 or 2 (mgd) pumps. As of today, the maximum pumped in a day was 1.06 mg. Pumps can be restricted, have impellers on them, or be variable speed driven. The pumps cannot pump more than they can treat. The plan is to have 2 pumps, with variable speed drives. Comm. Dolmatch suggested that a timeline be established for three scenarios: Village working alone, Village and Town working together from the start; and the Town being added further down the line. Comm. Hubbard asked if there is an order date. Comm. Moffa told DMO Lotkowitz that he should contact the potential suppliers and get dates that orders need to be placed, along with their timeframe for delivery. Comm. Dolmatch asked if the Village Board concluded that the pricing of the water will reflect the capital cost of the treatment system, or if there's going to be a separate long term commitment. DMO Lotkowitz' understanding of the agreement is that it will be long-term financing with a surcharge on the water rate. Comm. Hubbard would like prices from the three companies: Calgon, Trojan (Stearns & Wheeler's specified products) and Aquionics, if they are on the state's pre-qualified list. **DMO Lotkowitz will take action on obtaining price quotes of the units and a time line from the Village Board.**

Transformer Enclosure Issues-Status of Surveying

DMO Lotkowitz stated that the surveyors completed their field work this past week. They informed him that they will have the drawings within the next two weeks showing the easements. The next step is to secure the easements with the property owners through Atty. Byrne. Comm. Dolmatch asked if the enclosure design has been completed. DMO Lotkowitz replied that they are not really designed, they are pole-top mounted transformers that are installed with the appropriate FR3 oil and bollards will be put around the existing enclosures by our Village employees.

Infrastructure Data Base Project

DMO Lotkowitz reported that this is an ongoing project. He recently attended a Small Water Systems Management state-training class that recommended an "Asset Management Gram" that the EPA developed for Wastewater and Water systems. He obtained the software called CUPPS that was developed by; and will be maintained by the EPA. It seems like something that will be appropriate for us. Comm. Dolmatch inquired if it will interface with any other system the Village has; like property lines and tax map info. "It's not that robust, it's more for utility systems", replied DMO Lotkowitz. *Trustee Angelillo arrived.

ISO-Hydrant Rating

Comm. Moffa requested an update on the measurements/readings of the hydrants. DMO Lotkowitz handed out a "Hydrant Flow Calculator" sheet to each (copy attached) and stated that hydrant numbers 7-11 (Thayer Park, William's R.E., Remax, Morris', Sherwood Inn) were tested and are still lacking in pressure compared to the required ISO flow rate. Comm. Blackwell asked what the solution is to which DMO Lotkowitz replied someone would have to prepare a model with the different property's pipe diameters. Comm. Blackwell asked why this is being done. DMO Lotkowitz replied that before the Fire Dept. requests that the Village spend money on a rating review, they wanted to know what the readings are. Comm. Blackwell asked if the rating reviews are a desire, or a requirement. Comm. Dolmatch answered that the reviews are tied in with risk profiles that property & casualty insurance companies base their premiums on. Comm. Blackwell said he wants to make sure that we know why this is being done. Comm. Moffa said that it was the Municipal Board that asked DMO Lotkowitz to perform the testing out of concern that we know what the pressure readings are. Comm. Hubbard asked if the Firemen know about these low pressure readings and stated that they are quite alarming. Comm. Blackwell wants to know the definition of "Required ISO Flow Rate" and what is driving this research. DMO Lotkowitz said that the NFPA's (National Fire Protection Agency) requirements are based on the number of occupants in a certain area. Comm. Blackwell asked if the NFPA contacted us and where the study is going. Comm. Dolmatch stated that every community has a fire rating, which determines if structures require sprinklers, or what type of construction is required-it ties in with Code enforcement. DMO Lotkowitz stated that he hasn't heard from anyone that has directed us to achieve the required ISO Flow Rate of 3500. Comm. Moffa stated that it is important to know where we stand and where our weaknesses are. Now that we have this information, we need to find out what our next step is. Comm. Hubbard suggested that this information be provided to the Fire Dept as soon as possible; the readings concern him. Comm. Moffa wonders if there is a distribution model and what it suggests as a flow rate. **DMO Lotkowitz will refer to the model provided to us by C&S engineers and see what they suggest for flow rates, and also find out if there are any safety ramifications when those standards are not met.**

AMR Status

DMO Lotkowitz stated that he has been working with Dick at Sensus the last two weeks to finalize the transfer of data to and from the AMR system. Two reports will be run next week after the September bills have been processed showing the AMR readings versus manually read/entered readings. Any "bad reads" or "end-point mismatches" will be dealt with. Provided these reports are in close proximity of each other, the plan is to allow the AMR readings to "feed" over into the billing system at the end of the October 2009 cycle. Each month thereafter, as more meters are installed, the readings from the AMR system will increase and manually entered/read meters will decrease. Notations will be put in the meter books to inform our men as to which meters no longer need to be "read". There are close to 600 electric meters installed. Comm. Moffa asked how many water meters have been installed, to which DMO Lotkowitz stated he didn't have an exact number, but it's more than 151. Comm. Blackwell has concerns that the money spent to date is well above what the Village Board originally approved. He asks why there hasn't been a bill produced yet with the new system's readings. The original 20 "test" meters that were identified last fall, were never tested from start to finish. More meters have now been ordered and installed before Phase 1 has been completed. He asked what the cost has been so far. DMO Lotkowitz didn't have an exact number, but thought it was around 200 thousand dollars. Comm. Blackwell expressed his dissatisfaction with the progress of this project. Money is being spent continuously without the promised results. DMO Lotkowitz reminded everyone that the District meters were an "add on" to the project, but he is confident that at the end of the October cycle, approximately 800 of the bills will have readings that came from the AMR system. The bills can only be produced as a whole, all at one time. The ability to produce random quantities of bills at any given time is not an accepted accounting principal; this computer program feature will not be changed. He also stated that there is a provision in place that requires Village Board approval for any money spent that exceeds the originally budgeted amount of \$300k. Trustee Angelillo asked if all of the meters are currently being replaced because the original perception was that not all of them would be replaced. DMO Lotkowitz replied that they are not all being replaced, but the majority is. Comm. Hubbard questioned the reason why the water department is so far behind the number of meters installed by the electric department.

DMO Lotkowitz explained that the water dept. has to enter a resident's home, whereas the electric dept. can replace meters from outside. Comm. Blackwell asked Trustee Angelillo what the status is with the grant money we were supposed to receive. Trustee Angelillo said that he thinks the 35k went to the Town, but thought it was to be split. Comm. Hubbard said that we don't get any of that money as it is used to "pay down" the total project. The Town is getting the money, because the contract is with the Town. **Comm. Blackwell would like more information on the grant money. Comm. Moffa would like DMO Lotkowitz to get the facts on money spent, the number of water/ electric meters installed to date and for the month, and what is currently taking place with the project. Comm. Hubbard requested this on a meeting to meeting basis.**

Status of Stimulus Bill Applications

Comm. Moffa asked DMO Lotkowitz to give an update on the pending applications. DMO Lotkowitz replied that he has been assisted by Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Couch in applying. They consist of: 1) West Lake Street storm line upgrades; 2) Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrades (RBC's); 3) West Lake Street drinking water system improvements; 4) Village I & I reduction project; 5) Pump House improvements and lastly 6) Water Disinfection – UV project. These all have to be submitted within a month. **Comm. Moffa said he ought to get done as many as he can.**

Status of Resolution #2009-2 (Elect. Services Discussion of May 18)

Trustee Angelillo stated that the topic of the Wilson & Wilson report is on the agenda for the upcoming Village Board Meeting (Monday, Sept. 28th) and that Mayor Green has it. Comm. Moffa requested a copy and Trustee Angelillo said that he would forward a copy after he receives one. Trustee Angelillo was referring to the Wilson & Wilson report regarding the proposal from the Village to the PSC for a modest increase in the electrical rates. It came to everyone's attention that there are two different Wilson & Wilson reports being discussed by the attendees. The report that Wilson & Wilson prepared in 2005 in regards to the Skaneateles Recreation Center (SRC) was thought to be updated and has not. Trustee Angelillo stated that back in May the Village Board decided to hold off on it, due to the uncertainty of the ownership/operation of the SRC; and the possibility of an additional ice rink being added. The report was an analysis of the electrical consumption of the SRC; the consequences involved with them withdrawing from the National Grid contract before it's expiration; and the consumption's effect of the PPA on the Village rate payers. Discussions proceeded amongst the attendees regarding power consumption at the SRC; current load curves, incremental power rates, and the possibility that the Austin Park Arena Ice Rink may cease.

Status of CMOM Draft

DMO Lotkowitz said that other than meeting with the DEC that he reported on last meeting, he hasn't had any other communication.

Community Water Authority/Town's letter

Comm. Moffa asked if anybody had any opinions on the strong but necessary letter the Mayor sent in response to the Town's letter of 8/30/09. Trustee Angelillo stated that as of 8/6/09, the Town is actually collecting an increased water rate from their customers and holding on to it, just in case they have to pay it to us. They still feel that they can negotiate the rate with the Village, when they can't. Comm. Moffa stated that they may have to pay the new rate along with attorney's fees.

Report on MEUA conference

DMO Lotkowitz said it was an interesting 3-day conference that could have been condensed into one. One interesting topic was that people have a primmer on the ISO...people are buying and selling power that don't even have generation capabilities. It's an admirable goal; attempting to provide the least expensive power over the least expensive pathways to various sections of the state, but is it achievable? It involves scheduling outages. Another topic is IBEP; it's like the NYSERDA for the MEUA. They are an energy savings group that allows a municipality to add a surcharge on the bills and collect the money for future energy projects. There are many legal hurdles that have to be overcome prior to their group's implementation.

DMO Lotkowitz will get copies of his spreadsheet to the attendees, showing the group's chronology. The MEUA has a lobbyist group in Washington following issues that affect the MEUA. A half day was spent talking about hybrid and solar powered vehicles that NYMPA will help finance. Comm. Moffa asked what the extent of the financing is and if it's worth it. DMO Lotkowitz said that financing is for 36 months at 0% interest. There are some really nice bucket trucks out there and Silverados. It was commented that our Electric Dept.'s bucket truck purchase was a little too soon. **DMO Lotkowitz stated that he has paper copies of the above highlights to be distributed soon. Copies of the NY Independent Operator's System: "Basics of Existing in the New Electric World" are available upon request.**

NYPA Solar Power System Host Site

DMO Lotkowitz said "they" are looking for two candidates from each municipality that has solar potential and suggested we offer four sites. "They" will finance up to \$4.00/per watt, basically 50% of the cost of a solar panel, as they cost approx. \$8.00/watt. In response to Comm. Dolmatch's inquiries whether the SRC would be a good candidate, DMO Lotkowitz answered no, as the candidates have to be served by an MEUA system member; they are served by National Grid. DMO Lotkowitz proposed two sites: The Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the DPW Building. 100,000 sq ft. is needed to handle a 10kw system on a roof. The roof needs to be new otherwise a ground mounted system is required. Trustee Angelillo asked what happens between November and May, when we don't see the sun very much. Comm. Moffa stated that they still work. He received a 50% federal research grant for a system in Pompey, which receives less sun than us. A business can also apply and would be eligible for the 50% grant as well as a 30% federal tax credit, as long as they are served by the MEUA member's system. Comm. Moffa stated that the big problem is storing the energy produced. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the power can be sold back, but it has to stay behind the meter. (Energy produced doesn't exceed the "load" of the building). DMO Lotkowitz said the only thing we can do now is identify the locations and get in the "cue". We have a shot at four locations, if only 25 municipalities respond. If all 50 respond, our chances are down to two. Trustee Angelillo asked if we want to offer this to the school or commercial businesses. DMO Lotkowitz also stated that "they" are looking to put in 1mw, which requires a 10 acre parcel or 2 acres, minimum parcel size, to provide 250kw. It would be for a long-time, a 20-year agreement. A provider would come in and install and maintain it. We would only pay for the power we drew off it. Comm. Moffa asked who "they" are. DMO Lotkowitz replied, "The installer". Discussion continued on what locations would be good candidates; re: roof conditions, available acreage, commercial, residential, and easements down Fennell St. near the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The consensus is that it's a worthwhile program to look into and get involved in. DMO Lotkowitz said he will talk to Clerk/Treasurer Sheehan tomorrow and get started on a reply. "They" will contact us within the next few months.

Comprehensive Plan

Comm. Dolmatch said he has virtually nothing to say, but he has a lot to pass out. (Attached) He proceeded to say that he and Julie Sharpe are the Village representatives appointed by the Village Board for the Town's recently initiated, review group. The Village & Town's Comprehensive plan, adopted five years ago, is being reviewed. The materials passed out include: the actual plan, items that need reviewing, obsolete items, shifted focus items, and policy issues. These are all areas that need to be re-examined and potentially altered in the plan. He requested the attendees use his rating system on the given topics and asked that any other ideas be offered for discussion. He would like to collect the packets prior to the next meeting. Trustee Angelillo asked how often the group meets. Comm. Dolmatch stated that the next meeting is Wednesday, September 23rd and that DMO Lotkowitz chairs the committee. Meetings are held once a month.

Verizon Wireless Antenna Relocation

DMO Lotkowitz passed out schematics showing Verizon's plans to install 3 antennas on the existing "Home of the Lakers" 250,000-gallon water tower/tank. Verizon would be removing their existing equipment from the standpipe. Mayor Green requested input from the Municipal Board on the proposal. Comm. Hubbard asked what the advantage is to Verizon doing this. DMO Lotkowitz replied that the

existing antenna's coverage is blocked. They will have 360 degrees of coverage and they will increase their capacity. It's a financial advantage for them, as well as the Village.

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Currently, we get approx. 5k/year from them in the form of "rent". The contract is being revised to include a substantial increase to the Village in the neighborhood of 2,300 per month (28k/yr). We also receive "rent" money from Sprint/Nextel, AT&T, and Cricket. We may be able to renegotiate with them also. Comm. Hubbard said aesthetically, it looks horrendous. Comm. Dolmatch wants to make sure that the contract does not give Verizon an exclusive. The Village should still be able to "rent" to others. Discussions proceeded amongst the attendees on the visual aspects, and the reasons why they would choose to use our tank rather than erect their own tower. Comm. Dolmatch feels the agreement should not impair the Village's ability to include other Company's antennas. It was stated that Attorney Byrne is reviewing the contract. DMO Lotkowicz is working with David Stevenson (from Dutch Hill), who suggested that the tank be inspected. Also, an assessment of what the additions of these antennas means to the structural integrity, and an examination of the internal coatings of the tank needs to be done. The Planning Board is the next step after the suggested tank inspection has been completed. The Village Board will be the final board for approval.

FIOS-Dig Safe NY

Trustee Angelillo asked how many days our water guys are going to be marking the Heritage Woods and Whitegate sections of the Village where FIOS is going to be installed. DMO Lotkowicz stated that this wouldn't be happening if the developers had provided "As Bults" years ago. Whitegate is still owned by the developer, technically. Comm. Hubbard doesn't understand why our guys are out marking for water lines, when we don't own the property. DMO Lotkowicz replied that it's due to UFPO. All at the table commented that they certainly don't want this to end up happening with Parkside; Comm. Hubbard stated that Attorney Byrne should be made aware of this.

Next Meeting

Comm. Moffa noted that the next meeting is Monday, October 19, 2009

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.