

**REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD**  
**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2010**  
**7:00 P.M.**

**Present**

Commissioners Blackler, Blackwell, Hubbard, Moffa, DMO Lotkowitz.

**Absent**

Commissioner Dolmatch

**Minutes**

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 21, 2010 were approved with the following corrections. Changes were made to the AMR sections' last few sentences shown in bold type here.

**... any project that is only 15% over budget is not a bad project. Commissioner Blackwell disagreed with the 15% overage amount and the use of an overrun number as a rating. Commissioner Moffa halted any further discussion on the AMR since, in his opinion, it wasn't constructive.**

**Cryptosporidium-UV Lamp Life**

DMO Lotkowitz and Comm. Moffa have met with Severn Trent and were introduced to their unit that uses microwaves to excite the UV lights. It is approved by the EPA, but Severn Trent said that no list for the DEC exists. There are units currently installed in Wastewater Treatment Plants in California and Texas, but those for Water plants are only in the United Kingdom right now. DMO Lotkowitz referred to a spreadsheet that he previously provided to the Village Board, showing the price of these units being only ½ to 2/3, (\$69,600.) of the cost of those from the Calgon, (\$115,000.) and Trojan, (\$150,000.) companies. These are prices for two units. Comm. Blackler inquired if DMO Lotkowitz had any idea what the operating costs would be. DMO Lotkowitz replied that it is very similar in KW use as the Calgon unit. . Comm. Moffa said that the basic, predominate element in the operational costs are the replacement lamps. These lamps are guaranteed to have a longer life than the other manufacturers'. The cleaning isn't much of a problem due to the structure of the lamps within the cell. So far the Severn Trent product seems too good to be true stated Comm. Moffa, who would like DMO Lotkowitz to provide him with a copy of the report they were given by Severn Trent. Comm. Moffa will then contact a nationally renowned and trusted source, in reviewing UV technology, for his opinion. DMO Lotkowitz pointed out the third operational element that this system has in its favor. It has the ability of unlimited starts and stops, which saves on lamp life and energy consumption. Comm. Hubbard inquired as to whether we will be integrating our pumps with Variable Speed Drives (VSD's). DMO Lotkowitz stated that we are going to put VSD's in to help with the water hammering situation. Comm. Hubbard inquired if we should have the pumps running constantly, so that the lamps don't shut on and off even though the pump is capable of doing so? DMO Lotkowitz did an analysis because he is submitting a grant for the VSD's. He has deduced that 200HP motors running all the time are expensive. The only way VSD's work is if they are in a 60HP motor. Comm. Hubbard asked what size pumps we have now. DMO Lotkowitz stated that we have (2) 200HP pumps. Comm. Blackler stated that we could save on our demand as well. Comm. Hubbard asked if the original plan for the project was to replace the pumps. DMO Lotkowitz replied it was not, but the only way that he could justify savings in the grant application to get the VSD's, was to replace the pumps. Comm. Hubbard asked if we are now awaiting a grant for pumps in order for the project to move ahead. DMO Lotkowitz stated that he just submitted the application because it had to be done last week, but overall we have to take a look at it all and see if it's right for us. Comm. Blackwell said that he's troubled with the concept of changing out pumps that don't need to be changed out in the name of energy savings and getting a grant to do it. It's very strange, but that's the way the Gov't. works agreed Comms. Blackler and Hubbard. Comm. Blackwell again stated that he would not be in favor of this approach. There is confusion on what type of UV system we would need to get if we kept the existing 200HP pumps as opposed to replacing the pumps with 60HP pumps. Comm. Blackwell asked DMO Lotkowitz if the spreadsheet (previously given to the VB) took into consideration the replacement of the pumps and if not, what the approx cost of the project

is. Comm. Hubbard asked DMO Lotkowitz if he was still planning on doing the project "in house", for example: What is the cost of just the "materials?" DMO Lotkowitz said that there is mechanical work that would have to be sub-contracted out. The electrical work would be done "in house". Comm. Moffa said that costs have been coming down, but with pump replacement costs, we need to factor in the life cycle of the pumps over at least 20yrs. Comm. Hubbard and Comm. Blackwell agreed that the pumps we have now are approximately 15 years old and not due for replacement. Comm. Moffa stated that the cost of bringing down the UV system need of 2MGD (Million Gallons per Day) to 1MGD may warrant the cost of new pumps with or without the grant money. Pump replacement would be approximately \$15,000. each. Comm. Blackwell wondered if any information has been obtained about the UV system in Geneva. It was stated that Geneva was surprised at the cost of keeping their new UV system running. Any information that can help us would be good to know. Comm. Hubbard stated that Comm. Moffa is also aware of the fact that it was a far bigger project than ours. They have a 20million gallon excess flow. Basically the trouble lies in the fact that the bulbs are either on or they are off. You can't turn the bulbs down. The amount of energy needed to do this is excessive. It's a Trojan unit that they have and it can only turn on and off three times a day. Comm. Hubbard continued that the Severn Trent unit can be turned on and off all day unlimited. Comm. Hubbard mentioned to DMO Lotkowitz that he may want to contact Harvey Stone of Northeast Controls, out of Cato, NY. He builds control panels for pump integration systems and he's local, which is very important for future service work. Comm. Moffa stated that the project is moving in a good direction

#### **Jordan Elbridge Grant**

Comm. Moffa and DMO Lotkowitz recently had discussions with Ken Kaufman who explained the Jordan Elbridge Grant situation. He explained that the Jordan-Elbridge water districts and Harlot (Town of Skaneateles) water district applied for and were awarded a Local Government Efficiency grant from the Dept. of State for \$600,000. By combining three districts into one, they received the grant. Harlot will be connected to Jordan-Elbridge by a dedicated pipeline, which may cost one million dollars. Comm. Moffa stated that it is now up to our Village Board to decide if they would like to pursue that type of grant provided with that information. DMO Lotkowitz has a blank copy of the Grant application and stated that Jordan Elbridge had a law firm write the grant.

#### **Transformer Enclosure Issues-Follow-up on Doug's Fish Fry**

DMO Lotkowitz said he's been over to inspect the transformer enclosure and doesn't find any shrubs or vines blocking access to the transformer or the air intakes. The swing is not a hindrance either.

#### **Electric Substation Deficiencies - August 13, 2008 Report**

DMO Lotkowitz stated that nothing is going to be done until the weather breaks. HMT will come in and perform their maintenance inspection. The Electric Department will proceed with HMT's previous recommendations, as to what "immediate action" items need to be repaired. DMO Lotkowitz said a shutdown is being planned for the fall.

#### **February 16<sup>th</sup>'s Power outage/brownout**

According to DMO Lotkowitz on 2/16/10 at approx. 7:30 p.m. a car severed a pole on Franklin St. that carries the West "feed" into the Village. The Village then switched to a back-up "feed" from the East, the Bishop Hill location. There was a phase down there that nobody knew about, thus creating a "brownout" situation for the Village for quite some time. NYSEG informed us that since there wasn't a load on the Bishop Hill location, they weren't aware of the downed phase. When NYSEG figured everything out, and re-spliced it back together, it was approx 1:30 am 2/17/10. Comm. Blackler asked why we didn't switch to the National Grid feed that is located on Jewett Rd. DMO Lotkowitz said National Grid wouldn't allow the switch until they knew what the problem was. DMO Lotkowitz stated that twice a year, now, we are going to switch over to the back up systems and make sure that all is in place for the future. Comm. Moffa asked how one phase is lost. Comm. Blackwell said there needs to be three lines connected and one of the connections to one of the lines had an issue. Comm. Blackler inquired if anybody reported burned out motors. DMO Lotkowitz said he hadn't heard any reports, but there aren't a lot of places in town that use three phases.

Comm. Hubbard asked DMO Lotkowitz if our stand-by generators come on in situations like this. Yes, but the three pump stations have to be manually pumped by the truck answered DMO Lotkowitz. Some discussion took place regarding the manual pumping and the possibility of a back-up generator being at each of the three locations. A transportable generator may be something DMO Lotkowitz should budget for, per Comm. Moffa.

#### **ISO-hydrant rating-suggest Flow Rates safety ramifications**

DMO Lotkowitz said he has a new program to create a model of our water system with. It's from the EPA. Comm. Moffa asked if it was the program he told the Municipal Board about a few months back. DMO Lotkowitz stated that it was, and he hasn't had a chance to do anything with this program.

#### **Status of Stimulus Bill Applications**

DMO Lotkowitz stated that there are four applications out at this time. Comm. Moffa asked if they are the same ones he's been working on. DMO Lotkowitz stated that the fourth is new, it's for the VSD's and it is ARRA related.

#### **Village Proposal to PSC to increase rates**

DMO Lotkowitz explained that he doesn't think anything is being done on this. Comm. Hubbard asked if the ball is in our court. DMO Lotkowitz said he thinks so, but he's not sure where this project stands, as Sally has retired and this was started by her. Comm. Hubbard understands that Sally was the front person, but felt it needed to begin with DMO Lotkowitz providing Capital Expenditure information. He's concerned that there's no direction being taken. DMO Lotkowitz stated he does not know what the PSC needs as far as details on the Capital Expenditure, which does need to be developed first.

#### **Status of MEUA Assistance-SRC Power Evaluation**

DMO Lotkowitz was in contact with Mark Cordeiro at MEUA. He has forwarded files to Mark and obtained a quote for the analysis to be done. Although DMO Lotkowitz felt the study would be conducted free of charge, Mark Cordeiro stated that it would take 1½ days to do at \$170.00/hr. DMO Lotkowitz requested the model so he could input the data. According to Mr. Cordeiro, that is not possible as it's a three dimensional model that incorporates files for: underlying assumptions, hydro contract demands, both firm and peaking load growth pricing, transmission, voltage levels, ISO pricing, plus many, many more. DMO Lotkowitz replied to Mr. Cordeiro that he'd have to present it to his board, and that he was under the impression that this would not involve additional funding. Comm. Moffa calculated what the study would cost, roughly \$2700.00 (approx 16 hrs at \$170.00) to which DMO Lotkowitz agreed. Comm. Hubbard asked if DMO Lotkowitz was going to take this idea to the Village Board for approval of monies. DMO Lotkowitz replied that he was not. He didn't feel it was worth spending \$3000.00 right now. Comm. Hubbard asked him if he made that decision. DMO Lotkowitz said he had and asked for comments from those present. Comm. Moffa stated that DMO Lotkowitz should convey the information to the Village Board. The Trustees didn't approve the other study, (Wilson--no known documented cost) but they should at least be given the option, as this is in their jurisdiction. *Note from Bob L. on 3/15/10.* The Trustees agreed not to move forward on a study until there was a formal request from the Community Center operator to be placed on village power DMO Lotkowitz was looking for a no cost way to get the evaluation done in the meantime.

#### **CMOM Draft**

DMO Lotkowitz announced that he submitted the draft to the Department of Conservation (DEC). They, in turn, requested more information to be supplied via email. DMO Lotkowitz furnished the DEC with the requested information and is awaiting their letter of approval. We can then start implementing.

#### **Status of NYMPA Solar Power System Host Sites**

DMO Lotkowitz said he has some paperwork to fill out and mail in. Comm. Moffa asked if he has any candidate sites. Candidate sites are at least the DPW, WWTP and possibly the Water plant.

**Status of Verizon Wireless Antenna Relocation**

DMO Lotkowitz said this topic is in Attorney Mike Byrne's hands. The Village wants Verizon, as part of the agreement, to perform an inventory/study documenting what is presently on both towers physically. Dave Stevenson of Dutch Hill is the expert defining the scope of the work. Once that is completed, Mike Byrne is going to incorporate it into the agreement. That was the one sticking point. The monetary portion of the agreement is settled, said DMO Lotkowitz.

**Status of Turbidity Notification**

DMO Lotkowitz followed up with the Department of Health (DOH). The strategy he suggested is acceptable to them. The strategy is: when we see the turbidity rising above level 5, we can turn the pumps off until the level lowers (unless we have to turn the pumps back on to keep the pressure up) we will be okay and turbid waters will remain out of the tanks, thus notifying the public will not have to take place. Comm. Moffa stated that he believes the city tests the turbidity right here at our pump house. DMO Lotkowitz said the sensors are located in the City of Syracuse wells. Comm. Hubbard said it's a machine that measures transparency.

**Alternative Energy Technologies (AET) Committee Update**

Comm. Moffa announced that Mark Roney and he would be presenting information on the newly formed committee to the Village Board after this meeting adjourned. He passed a packet around to all members stating that he would be supplying the same to the Village Board. There would be a total of five meetings. There is a "kick-off" (meet-n-greet) meeting planned for Saturday, February 27, 2010 at the Community Center. Three additional meetings will follow where team leaders will gather information describing the technology and outlining costs. The fifth meeting will be a workshop to assess whether a technology could be implemented. After the workshop, a report will be compiled and presented to the Municipal Board, who will then pass it on to the Village Board. Comm. Moffa stated that there are some knowledgeable people have come on board and it's quite an extensive list.

\*Mark Roney arrived at the meeting at 8:00pm

**NEW BUSINESS****Clough Harbour & Associates History**

Comm. Hubbard inquired where we stand on the system evaluation. DMO Lotkowitz said he has asked CHA to update their proposal. DMO Lotkowitz said that when they were in a week and a half ago Tom Turo seemed unclear about what the proposal consisted of. Comm. Hubbard asked what DMO Lotkowitz meant by that. Are they changing what they proposed before? DMO Lotkowitz said he himself does not know what they proposed before. Comm. Hubbard questioned why, when he has a copy of the letter. DMO Lotkowitz said he has only seen the amount of money authorized; he doesn't have a copy of a letter/proposal. He will ask for it. Comm. Hubbard stated that the funds requested had been cut back to \$12,000., but he felt the scope was clear. DMO Lotkowitz repeated that he asked Mr. Turo to update the proposal and Mr. Turo said the scope was unclear. Comm. Hubbard replied that we have to get our own people on board, or else the project won't get anywhere. DMO Lotkowitz stated that he didn't feel that would be an issue and yes, it is a lot of work.

**AMR Water Meters**

Comm. Blackwell asked DMO Lotkowitz what we are doing with the water meters that have been removed; especially those that are fairly new. Are we selling them, marketing them, or contacting other municipalities in the MEUA to make use of them. DMO Lotkowitz stated that we are scraping them. The heads are taken off and the bodies are taken apart, then they are put in a scrap barrel in the garage. Comm. Blackwell announced that his meter was only three years old when it was replaced. And we're going to scrap it? DMO Lotkowitz replied that we can't use it. Comm. Blackwell agreed, but isn't there any potential there for us to sell them. Comm. Blackwell said if we have 500-1,000 meters that we could get \$40-\$50 each for; it would be well worth trying to do. DMO Lotkowitz said he would have to look into that. Comm. Blackwell asked if he could, please, look into that. DMO Lotkowitz said he has a

vendor who would come in and pick up our old electric meters, if we saved them and let him know. He'll check into the water meter "recycling", as DMO Blackwell suggests. Comm. Moffa and Comm. Blackwell agree that this could bring in a good amount of money for us.

#### **Bad Meter Boxes**

DMO Lotkowitz explained that there are several locations that have been identified, while their electric meters have been changed, where the meter boxes are bad. He stated that a list is being developed and he wonders what the procedure is for handling. Mr. Cox's meter box was bad and he was unaware of it, as a letter was never sent nor was he informed. Only when the incident occurred, was he made aware of it. DMO Lotkowitz said that letters need to go out immediately, but does Jorge (Codes Enforcement) do it, or do we. Comm. Hubbard asked what constitutes a faulty meter box. Maybe we could just take care of the problem and make it safe. DMO Lotkowitz said it is clearly work that should be done by a qualified electrician. DMO Lotkowitz said we could offer in a letter to them that we could do the work and bill them, but on second thought, this may be a liability issue for the Village. DMO Lotkowitz would also like to ask Attorney Byrne what our obligations are and what we should do when we see an unsafe situation. Comm. Blackwell agrees this could be a liability for us. Comm. Hubbard said to leave it up to those in office to decide on.

#### **Taylor Subdivision-Electric service easement-MJB's email**

This is not a topic that needs to be on the Agenda. It was overlooked when the Draft Agenda was circulated for approval. Things are progressing as usual with this topic.

#### **Stray Voltage report/System Equipment inspection**

DMO Lotkowitz submitted a stray voltage report to the Public Service Commission (PSC). In the past the PSC has only required a letter. He purchased three stray voltage testing devices and we found that we have no stray voltage issues. Nothing is above the 5 volt threshold. We are now required to provide a detailed report of any equipment problems that exist along with a schedule of repairs. It is required that 20% of the system be inspected each year and repaired within 3-5 yrs. depending on severity. DMO Lotkowitz declared that they have broken the village down by circuits. Next year he will report on the items repaired, as well as, any new issues in need of repair.

#### **LED's-Lansing's Green Street Lighting**

Comm. Hubbard opened discussion on this topic. Comm. Dolmatch emailed the Board information on Lansing M.I.'s LED street lighting in January. DMO Lotkowitz said he has worked diligently to produce numbers that would warrant a grant on these highly efficient LED lights for street lighting. NYSERDA wants a threshold of \$2000. per 10 million BTU's saved. He counted a total of 370 street lights, of which 116 are ornamentals and the remaining 254 are cobra heads. The cost is just too expensive. Using the average of 12hrs/day of darkness, he found a formula on the web, but he can't bring the cost down. He obtained a quote from Cooper Industries for their cobra heads, of \$900. ea. The ornamentals were \$600 and you have to change the globes. He couldn't justify applying for a grant, even if we put up ½ of our own money (\$300,000.) DMO Lotkowitz decided it wasn't worth it, financially (15 year payback), as the Village doesn't have extra money to spend on a system that already works fine. Comm. Hubbard asked if there was a simple solution like just changing the bulb. DMO Lotkowitz said yes, but the bulb is \$500. The price point for the technology is just not here yet.

#### **Next Meeting**

Comm. Moffa noted that the next meeting will be on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010. It is acknowledged that Walt Blackler will be away and the meeting will still take place.

#### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Audrey C. Clark  
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer