VILLAGE OF SKANEATELES
MUNICIPAL BOARD
MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING – June 12, 2020

This Meeting was conducted at the Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Present: Chairman Marc Angelillo, Commissioners Walt Blackler, Tom Rhoads and Duane Wiedor, Village Trustee Carol Stokes-Cawley, WWTP Chief Operator Adam Twitchell and Clerk to the Boards Dennis Dundon. GHD, the Village Engineer, was represented by Bruce Munn and Jason Greene.

Excused: Commissioner Gregg Palmer

Chairman Angelillo thanked everyone for coming and convened the meeting at 8:04 am. The meeting began with GHD's explanation of the engineering report being prepared by GHD for the Village. It follows a prescribed format that meets NYSDEC requirements, and contains a description and evaluation of alternatives, a cost effectiveness analysis of the feasible alternatives, consideration of the "do nothing" option, and a recommendation on the course of action. Comm. Wiedor asked why DEC included the economic requirements? Mr. Munn said that they want to be sure that the impacts are understood by the municipality. Comm. Wiedor asked whether it is possible to change course if new information becomes available? Mr. Munn indicated that the implementation schedule would then become the issue, especially if a new plan would have to be approved by the agency. Mr. Greene reminded the group that there is a requirement to be operational NLT May 1, 2024.

Chairman Angelillo asked if a trial study could be done, since the media on the existing RBCs is relatively new and the introduction of media into the lagoon is a separate implementation. Mr. Munn replied that the RBC solutions are a more proven approach. A newer technology might benefit from a test look. He added that the Village could negotiate a trial and renegotiate the compliance schedule to accommodate the trial. Comm. Rhoads asked if GHD thought that would be worthwhile? Mr. Munn said yes, especially for a technology with which DEC is less familiar operationally. Mr. Greene reviewed the GHD-recommended options beginning with the Village's installed base of 4 RBCs which are already well-understood. If one or two more were introduced it might provide the additional treatment capacity needed for ammonia and chlorine removal. That would require an addition to the building in proximity to the existing contactors for ease of reestablishing effluent piping. The other RBC alternative would replace the media with a higher density version, to support more effective nitrification. Mr. Munn remarked that give the stable operating performance of the Village system, GHD has been able to get the vendors to calibrate their models to the Village baseline performance.

Mr. Greene then explained the other option being studied – the introduction of media into the lagoons. He described Webitat's N-pax technology which would place 6 free-standing modules

into the lagoons using fans to create flow over the media to turn over the lagoon. This technology, which can be removed for the winter, if desired, has been used for over 10 years. Another vendor's system, MBBR, would construct treatment chambers adjacent to the lagoons with an established fixed flow through the chambers.

Comm. Wiedor asked if the DEC standards are changing over time and would any investments be solely to solve the present problem or be an investment in the future? Mr. Munn said that water quality standards ratchet down and that denitrification might be necessary at some point. Mr. Greene said that a third system, BATH, was considered, but GHD finds it very expensive for our small size plant.

Chairman Angelillo asked if GHD had considered chemical removal methods? Mr. Munn said they are largely out of favor with DEC. The Chairman continued that given our different seasonal limits, was chemical treatment for 6 months a viable option? Mr. Munn said it we would have to do a very good job with system operation.

When asked about preliminary cost direction, Mr. Greene suggested that the RBCs seem to be a more expensive route, maybe $800K, while the lagoon systems are typically under $500K (excluding any infrastructure construction). The RBCs would be most costly, then the MBBR system, and the Webitat system the least costly. Newark NY had used Webitat.

Comm. Rhoads asked if it were possible to ask Webitat to throw one unit into the lagoon and get some idea of its effectiveness? Mr. Greene said it was possible to rent a unit. Mr. Munn said that he has some concerns about short-circuiting, and asked about lagoon sludge removal? Chief Operator Twitchell said that anecdotally he has heard that one lagoon was done 15 to 20 years ago. Mr. Munn suggested that it might be necessary. Chairman Angelillo said it could be done. Mr. Munn said in his experience the DEC should be willing to work with us on interim steps. He added that for dechlorinization, the Village will have to make its process more effective.

The subject of SCADA came up and Chief Operator Twitchell said it would be desirable. GHD is working with its expert and were glad to learn that other initiatives may be under consideration. Comm. Rhoads asked that they be attuned to limitations that might be present in some of the plant's support structure. Comm. Rhoads asked if GHD would provide guidance to the Village on EFC funding? Mr. Munn said they would; Mr. Greene and Mr. Munn suggested that this project could be a good candidate for grant funding.

NEXT STEPS: GHD will provide the draft report for review by the Municipal Board by close-of-business on June 26. The Municipal Board will postpone its regular June meeting from June 23 to June 30 at which meeting it will review the draft report. There will be another special meeting of the Board and GHD scheduled for 8 am on July 6, 2020 at the WWTP to review the Board's suggestions. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 9:10 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Dundon, Clerk to the Boards