

REGULAR MEETING, MUNICIPAL BOARD
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2008
7:00 P.M.

Present Commissioners Walt Blackler, Dave Blackwell, Alan Dolmatch, Marty Hubbard, Peter Moffa, and Mark Roney

Others Present John Camp* C&S Engineers, representing the Town
Cliff Abrams 37 State Street

Minutes

On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Blackler, it was resolved and unanimously carried (6-0 in favor) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 15, 2008 as presented.

Status of Director of Municipal Operations (DMO) Hiring

Comm. Moffa informed the Board that the Village is close to negotiating a contract with a new DMO. Commissioners Moffa and Blackwell agreed that we have a very good candidate with a lot of expertise.

Cryptosporidium-U/V Disinfection

Comm. Moffa reported that he, Mayor Green, Trustee Angelillo, and Comm. Dolmatch met with Kevin Castro of Stearns & Wheler (S&W) and discussed refining the scope and schedule for this project work. Some of the work was trimmed and two evaluations were added relative to the head-works at the water plant to deal with turbidity and telemetry controls. In response to Comm. Hubbard asking if S&W will address the full system, Comm. Moffa said that is correct. Cavitation problems experienced at the water plant and the lack of check valves, variable speed control for the pump, and the foot valve problem were all discussed at the meeting. Comm. Moffa noted that the upset limit is \$25,000; the total was trimmed and we are getting more for it. He added that he is pleased with the results and the **proposal has been passed onto the Village Board to be considered at their Oct. 27 meeting.** Comm. Dolmatch questioned the fee – he said it is not clear as described and reimbursable expenses should be defined. Comm. Blackler said he believes it is in the Master Agreement. Comm. Moffa recommended that the **Village Board substantiate the base rate.**

In response to Comm. Hubbard's inquiry last month about the status of the Town covering their reservoir by April, 2009, Mr. Camp said he checked with Engineer Doug Wickman who has been handling it for C&S and learned that the Town of Skaneateles is considering improvements to the existing in-ground reservoir, as well as the feasibility of constructing two tanks. Mr. Camp said one element that is harder to put a cost on is the lease agreement. Comm. Hubbard stated that there isn't any Village money involved - the question is whether to replace one or the other reservoir. Mr. Camp said C&S will be wrapping up the report in the near future and the Town will want all the cost information. Comm. Hubbard said he recalls that replacement was discussed, not repair. Mr. Camp said the Town would potentially improve only one reservoir. Comm. Hubbard clarified that the Town only uses one of the reservoirs, the Village none. Comm. Moffa recalled that the C&S report recommended a new covered reservoir. Comm. Hubbard said he's concerned with the real estate and thus wants to know which reservoir is involved. He added that with no money on the table, he doesn't know why it wouldn't be viable to repair and cover the larger reservoir. Mr. Camp recognized that the Town's deadline is sooner than the Village's because of the covered reservoir. Comm. Moffa said the Village wants the UV disinfection down at the existing Village pump station that would treat all the water. Comm. Hubbard said since the Town is a wholesale buyer the only directive is to the Village for UV disinfection. Comm. Moffa stated that UV takes care of cryptosporidium and bacteria also. UV is more affected by turbidity but it is way below the level to justify filtration. There is the added requirement of chlorine residual. In response to Comm. Dolmatch questioning if that is to trace leaks, Comm. Moffa said it is to show proof of disinfection. Mr. Camp concluded that the Village is looking for the Town's direction as to which reservoir they are going forward with. Comm. Hubbard suggested staying on point with the real estate and expressed his hope that the Village and Town are going to stay

on the same team. Comm. Moffa commented that it is good to know the thinking process. Comm. Hubbard said the smaller of the two reservoirs is owned by the Town as it was built and paid for by the Town. Therefore, they would probably have some obligation to remove the reservoir and restore the area if they go elsewhere. Only the Town uses in-ground reservoir capacity. Comm. Dolmatch recognized that C&S needs to take into account cost of demolition and restoration when providing the Town with the various options and associated cost. Comm. Hubbard said **reservoir ownership** is defined and we need to **confirm who owns** what through the Village Board. He offered to meet Mr. Camp at the reservoir site at any time. *Mr. Camp left at this time.

Electrical Consultant Staff Meeting/Initial Assignment

Comm. Moffa said he can't speak to this topic without Trustee Angelillo present. Comm. Dolmatch advised that there is something coming up with regards to the proposed new Police Station. There is consensus that the Police Station's electric service should be underground with a long-term expectation that other services along Fennell Street may eventually go underground and to give consideration of future capacity. Robson Woese is the electric contractor for the project, however, Comm. Dolmatch questioned if CHA should look at the work in the road. If so, should it be brought before the Village Board by the Municipal Board or by the Police Station Committee (PSC)? Comm. Hubbard said he thinks Mayor Green has already talked to CHA. Comm. Dolmatch asked if it ought to be designed by CHA or the site's electric engineer – he'd like this resolved. The Board discussed existing lines concluding that it is wise to at least apprise CHA of the possible project. Comm. Hubbard noted that the electric service would be a similar application as to the new Fire Station. Comm. Moffa said it is a policy decision of the Village Board.

Status of AMR (Automatic Meter Reading)

Comm. Moffa said that Trustee Angelillo engaged Comm. Blackwell to assist with AMR so asked him to report. Comm. Blackwell informed the Board that he found out that our contract is with EJ Prescott (EJP), not Sensus that is the supplier. EJP is great with water, not electric, but has now taken over both. There's been a delay on the electric meters and transmitters that weren't ordered until May of this year. EJP advised that Sensus is having trouble manufacturing the meters, but within the last month the technological problem has been solved. Thus, the meters are almost in route or possibly in route. Comm. Roney recalled that new technology was developed. Comm. Blackwell said that EJP shipped and invoiced for a number of water meters and transmitters for the water meters that we physically have here. Two meters and transmitters were installed in two houses in the village - they can "talk to the Town, but can't talk to the meters". The problem is being worked on but is difficult to solve because we can't connect to the internet. Wireless servers were put in at the water tower that transmits to the Fire Station. Comm. Blackwell said Marshall McGee, a Welch Allyn employee who knows what he is doing, has volunteered to work on the connection. Sensus says it's the Village's fault because of no internet connection, EJP says Sensus can't make the meters. In response to Comm. Dolmatch, Comm. Blackwell said the Town has not installed any meters. Comm. Roney commented that he doesn't think this is going anywhere until a new DMO is on board – we need a quarterback. Comm. Dolmatch said the Village Board needs to know when and whether Marshall McGee can solve the problem. Comm. Blackwell said we should also be aware that even when all is resolved, the Village Office's software can't read the Sensus system so that ought to be worked on now. Comm. Dolmatch commented that we control that process. **Comm. Blackwell offered to talk to Trustee Angelillo about the software and to contact Mr. McGee again.** Comm. Moffa said it seems we are solely relying on a volunteer at this point; he agreed we should move on the software.

Capacity/Vulnerability/Emergency Response Plan

Comm. Moffa reported that Bob Carr left Stearns & Wheeler (S&W) and that he discussed that with Mayor Green suggesting we find out who at S&W is going to pick-up that responsibility. Other than that, there is no report.

Transformer Enclosure Issues

No report.

Electrical Issues Requiring Immediate Attention

The Board noted that this still needs to be addressed and will require the immediate attention of the new DMO.

System Diagram Project

Comm. Blackler recalled that Trustee Angelillo was going to set something up with Lineman Abbott; this also needs the attention of the new DMO. Comm. Dolmatch said perhaps it would be helpful to produce the Municipal Board's list of priorities for the new DMO – a short paragraph on each item that matters. Comm. Blackwell said he favors sitting down with the new DMO; Comm. Moffa said it's his intent to have him at the next meeting.

Status of Authorization of D. Stevenson for Sprint/Nextel

Comm. Moffa said that Dave Stevenson was contacted and he subsequently submitted a revised proposal.

Capital Plan-Rolling Stock

Comm. Roney distributed copies of his rolling stock inventory based on the Roy Teitsworth, Inc. 7/20/07 Appraisal and said a sinking fund could be set up. In response to Comm. Dolmatch, Comm. Roney said he doesn't know how we'd gauge the estimated useful life of a vehicle, but certainly the village crews would have ideas as to the length of time equipment can be expected to be useful to them. Comm. Blackler noted that the Light Department is separate. Comm. Moffa recognized it as a good start.

Capital Plan-Infrastructure

Comm. Dolmatch stated that he previously circulated to and sought input from the Municipal Board regarding his ideas as to how we'd utilize an infrastructure data base but did not receive any feed back. Comm. Moffa said he did review it, found it very thorough, and didn't have much to offer. Comm. Blackwell said we have an outline for the new DMO to digest and it's prudent to wait for him.

Electric Service Status

No report.

Bucket Truck Status

Comm. Moffa recalled reading that a decision was reached on which truck to purchase and that it's been ordered.

Variable Speed Pump

Comm. Moffa said Trustee Angelillo is staying on top of this. Comm. Blackler recalled that all agreed a revision to the quote should be made. Comm. Moffa agreed that this decision should await the S&W report on disinfection that will include the variable speed consideration.

Oliver Waterline

Comm. Blackwell reported talking to Water Laborer Tom Main who indicated he'd test, shut off, and test the line again. In doing so, between the first and second test, the Hanrahan family returned home and found cloudy water so Laborer Main had no choice but to open the line. In response to Comm. Blackler, Comm. Blackwell said he believes if a loop was put in it would solve the problem, but it's not an inexpensive solution so ownership needs to be established by someone other than us. Comm. Hubbard said he thinks it is a private line and doubts there are any easements. Comm. Blackwell confirmed for Comm. Moffa that four or five homes are served by the line. Comm. Dolmatch said if it is a private line we don't have any obligation to go in; Comm. Blackler said he recalls that former Light/Water Superintendent LaForte fixed it before. Comm. Moffa said he thinks this is an issue to **get Village Attorney Byrne involved** in; technically we came to agreement that a loop should be installed. Comm. Blackwell said the pipe should be replaced with high density plastic (HDP), but Comm. Dolmatch questioned if in doing so we'd be saying that's the new standard for the Village. Comm. Hubbard said he wouldn't recommend embarking in this loop as

we'd be setting a precedent of a loop and materials. Who is responsible for that line is the question for Attorney Byrne, but first ownership ought to be verified. **Comm. Hubbard asked Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Couch to check with Clerk/Treasurer Sheehan about easements.**

Electrical Fire at Main Sub-station

Comm. Moffa said he heard about this and knows that Trustee Angelillo was going to get the particulars from Line Foreman Murphy.

Report on MEUA Meeting

Comm. Blackwell said he attended the meeting at which Mark Cordeiro made a presentation very similar to the one he made at the last meeting. There was further discussion about NYISO and the fact that FERC has been asked to investigate NYISO's recent increases. Comm. Blackwell said that last May NYMPA reported on an analysis of their revenues and expenses coupled with market conditions and predicted the need to raise their energy rate from 45 mills to at least 50 mills. In their memo of October 16, 2008, they informed the membership that the conditions still prevail necessitating the rate increase. More details and data were presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting, as well as the 2009 Budget projections.

Regarding the spiraling congestion costs, Comm. Blackwell said NYMPA has always treated congestion costs as a NYMPA expense (as opposed to passing it through to the member systems) and during the past year the expense amounted to approximately \$4 million dollars. That absorption has decreased NYMPA's reserve fund and would certainly break it if continued. Thus, NYMPA's Board of Directors is proposing a new program, the "Congestion Mitigation Program", to handle congestion expense. The program that will be offered to the membership is a protection plan and NYMPA will monitor the funds that will remain with each participating member if not all are spent. Comm. Blackwell said that the NYISO offered an "insurance" policy to protect municipals against these fluctuating charges but it was rejected, as recommended by NYMPA, in part because it was too expensive. Since this topic will be discussed in greater detail at the Semi-Annual Meeting on October 23, Comm. Blackwell said he'd like to attend the meeting. **Resolution #2008-7:** On the motion of Comm. Dolmatch, seconded by Comm. Blackler, it was resolved and unanimously carried (6-0 in favor) to endorse Comm. Blackwell's attendance at the NYMPA Semi-Annual Meeting on Thursday, October 23, 2008, at a cost of \$45.00.

Mezzalingua Property/Encroachment in Utility Easement

Comm. Dolmatch said the Municipal Board does not need to get involved.

NYPA - Hydropower

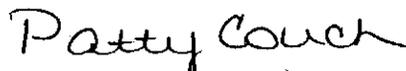
Comm. Blackwell acknowledged receipt of NYPA's October 14, 2008 letter advising that there will be a drop in our firm power based on the 1986 agreement that provided for taking power from the municipal systems and giving it to developing businesses. The Village of Skaneateles' hydro allocation will be reduced from 5,160 kw to 5,156 kw (which is negligible) effective with the NYPA bills to be mailed in November, 2008. Comm. Blackler recalled that this was provided for with the establishment of an industrial economic development program and some municipals seek to entice new businesses based on low power cost.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 17, 2008

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.


Patty Couch
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer