

Date of Meeting: November 10, 2005

Kind of Meeting: Business

Place of Meeting: Village of Pawling

Members Present: Edward Hauser, Chairman
Robert Liffland
Tracy Durkin
Wayne Osborn
Carol Reynolds
Allen Rundall

Others Present: Jim Fitzsimmons of Dufresne-Henry
Seth Sheraden of Environmental Consultants
Steve Mance of Environmental Consultants
Rich Kane of Environmental Consultants

At 7:30 p.m. the business meeting of the Pawling Joint Sewer Commission was called to order by Chairman Edward Hauser with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOVED by Wayne Osborn, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to accept the minutes of October 13, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Allen Rundall, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to accept the treasurer's report of October 1, 2005 through October 31, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve the November prepaid vouchers and the October, 2005 vouchers as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to accept the Correspondence Log of November 3, 2005 as presented. All were in favor and motion carried.

Old Business and Reports

Attorney Report

No attorney present and no report submitted.

Engineering Report

Jim Fitzsimmons said Linda sent him some data on water usage in the sewer district and he added it to his graph. He handed out copies of his graph to the Commission members. There was some discussion on how difficult and confusing the graph is to read.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked Jim to explain what all of the lines mean.

Jim explained what each individual line means. Allen Rundall asked if they could do a graph that might be understandable.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked Jim what his conclusions are from looking at this data; is there a relationship between the rain falls and the plant flows. Jim said yes there is. He said when the rain fall is high, so are the flows at the plant.

Allen asked if there has been anything further done with the infiltration situation. Jim said D-H has a RFP out to about a half dozen contractors. He said they are waiting now for some response. Allen said he is concerned that the Commission has been waiting for so long for something to get done with this and they are no further now than they were a year ago.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked Jim what the RFP's are for specifically. Jim said it's for the manhole sealing, the rims, patching and things like that. Chairman Edward Hauser asked Jim to facilitate the RFP's.

Jim said D-H has started working on the Toll Brother project. He has nothing to report on it yet. Allen asked if the capacity of the plant could be .31 or .32 at this point. Jim said it's a modification the Commission can go after.

Sewer Operator Report

Seth said there was quite a bit of rain and quite a bit of flow into the facility for the month of October. It averaged 460,000 gallons a day through the facility.

Seth said when they did cleanings at the pump stations they found large stones in the pump stations and in the influent area. He said the stones can do some serious damage to the impellers. Seth said taking care of the lines will benefit the pump stations as well.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked Seth if there is a possibility that those stones are coming from a place where there is massive infiltration, that they are being carried in with ground water. Seth said there are several ways they can get into the system. He said he believes that all of the low lying areas are done up with the man hole inserts to keep anything from coming in, so it does appear to be coming from either the risers themselves or actually in the pipe where there might be a break. Robert Liffland asked if it was the Hillview pump station. Seth said it was actually a couple of pump stations. Rich Kane said it was Greenlawn, Croton and West Main St. pump stations that they were pulling the rocks out of. Rob said the Greenlawn pump station also takes care of Cedar Valley and asked if the Commission takes care of the lines inside the complex there. Chairman Edward Hauser said the end of the line for the Commission is the manhole right outside of the complex. Steve Mance said they could take a look at that man hole to see if there is some concern with Cedar Valley.

Seth said on the rain storm we had on the 14th into the 15th there was a problem at a pump station with their response to an alarm call. He said there was some bad judgment calls made that were based on some previous conditions.

Seth said he wants to stress that it didn't affect any customers, though it very well could have, but they weren't receiving those types of calls that night. Allen said the resident living right across from the pump station called at 12:00 midnight stating that the alarm was going on. Allen said they called him again at 5:00 in the morning saying there was no response. At around 7:30 in the morning Allen went over there and the alarm was still going. He said he called and spoke with Seth and Seth said they had been out there, that there is nothing they could do about it, the water level is too high. Allen said he doesn't know where the lack of communication between the person who receives these calls and the company is, and what happened with the call back, there is suppose to be a call back and there wasn't any. Allen said this is totally unacceptable as far as he is concerned. He turned both pumps on manually and the water level dropped. He said the water level was high because something made the pumps go off and then they never came back on again until he did it manually. Chairman Edward Hauser asked Seth what he has done to address the communication issue. Seth said again, it was a bad judgment call made and obviously no matter what kind of rain fall they see here they have to respond. Seth said that it was his understanding that somebody had been out in the vicinity around midnight when in fact he had been out at around 10:30 that night. Seth said that when he got the phone call around midnight he misinterpreted it to be from Pawling but the operator had already been home when he called to report. He said he made the assumption that somebody had just been out here. Seth said also that he had just been out the previous week when there were high flows. He received a high level alarm call and responded to it, came out and when he got out there the alarm had shut off because the float for the alarm dropped back down to normal level and the pumps were at that time fine. So, again based on that too, Seth said he just made a judgment that the problem was just due to the high flows. Seth said they never had a problem with response in the past and they don't anticipate having a problem with response in the future.

Carol Reynolds asked Seth if the whole thing came about because he thought the operator that called was local but instead he was home. Seth said yes that was part of it. Steve Mance said that there is no doubt there was an error made on their part. Carol said it sounds like it was an honest mistake. Steve said it came on the heels of almost 17" of rain over a 4 to 8 hour period. He said certainly it shouldn't have happened and they apologize for it. Steve said they deal with a lot of treatment plants in this area and they were all in this similar situation. There were other pump stations overflowing in the area. Steve said they do apologize for the error they made and they have taken steps internally to adjust their response. Chairman Edward Hauser said he does appreciate the steps that they have taken and that this was one of those 300 year storms and hopefully we won't see another one like it again. He said this is how you learn where the weak points are in the system.

Seth said that all in all, the pump stations and the plant did perform extremely well under the amount of rain that fell. Chairman Edward Hauser said he looks at what happened in some of our surrounding communities where they lost roads and bridges and everything else. The village, the town and the sewer plant, all of our systems were stressed to the maximum and they all withstood the storm. There wasn't a single road in the town or village that didn't hold.

New Business

MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve closing Capital Fund CD#31003912600052 with a balance of \$96,033.78 plus interest. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Robert Liffland, SECONDED by Tracy Durkin to approve transfer from Capital Fund MMA#15004203346926 to a new CD. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Allen Rundall, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve opening a new CD at \$151,000 for a term of 90 days @ 3.89% interest. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Tracy Durkin, SECONDED by Robert Liffland to approve transfer from East Main St. MMA#15004210754740 to O&M MMA#15004203346918 for \$1,399.70 for legal and engineering fees associated with the East Main St. sewer line replacement project. All were in favor and motion carried.

MOVED by Allen Rundall, SECONDED by Wayne Osborn to approve transfer from Summit/Willets MMA#15004210754740 to O&M MM#15004203346918 for \$3,857.45 for legal and engineering fees associated with the Summit/Willets sewer extension project. All were in favor and motion carried.

2006 Budget:

Chairman Edward Hauser said they are in the final stages of completing the budget. He said one of the big questions is the latest borrowing the Commission did for the to big sewer projects. There is an \$18,000 interest payment due and the question for the Commission is how much do they want to pay down in principal. Chairman Edward Hauser said the Commission is not required to pay principal but he feels it's prudent to do it. He asked the members if they want to set some target like they won't pay any more principal down than would raise the budget by 1%. He said right now the increase is under 4%. Chairman Edward Hauser says he doesn't think they have enough information right now to make this decision. He said that after the whole budget is done they can add just 1% to it just for the purpose of paying the principal down. Chairman Edward Hauser said Linda can put those numbers in and circulate it so that everyone can see the numbers. Chairman Edward Hauser asked Linda if there is anything else she thinks the Commission should look at. Linda said she put \$30,000 on the line item for the collection system main/repairs because of the work that is going to be getting done on the man holes and lines.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked if there is any estimate for the work they will be looking to do. Jim Fitzsimmons said there were some estimates given previously, he's not sure what they were.

Robert Liffland said that if there are 10 man holes at \$3,000 a piece that's how you get the \$30,000. Steve Mance said that the Commission will have the contingency also because anything that they needed it for is all complete now, like the RBC work.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked if there are any other questions or comments on the budget. There were none.

Chairman Edward Hauser said the public hearing will take place on December 8th. That is a regular meeting night.

Commission Member Comments

Allen Rundall asked Linda when the contract is up with the present operators. Linda said she didn't know off hand, she thinks there are two or three years left on it. Allen asked if there is a 30 day notice. Linda said she didn't know, the contract is up in the office.

Chairman Edward Hauser asked Steve if he knew. Steve said he believes there is 3 years left and a 90 day notice.

Tracy Durkin said she wanted to just thank the operators for their candor in admitting their mistake. She said that every mistake is a lesson learned and she just wanted to thank them.

Robert Liffland asked if the engineering bills for the Toll Brother project is being kept track of. Linda said she hadn't gotten any bills yet for that. Rob asked when should they say they need more money because the engineers have been working on this. Tracy said she thinks it should be 50%. Rob said they should keep an eye on this.

Wayne Osborn, Secretary