



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
OCTOBER 11, 2022

4:30 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Loring called the meeting to order at 4:30pm.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2022

Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022 as published. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

APPOINTMENTS:

MIKE OHL & MIKE CARMASINE, CEI INC. RE: GRASSY HOLE/ I-86 TREATMENT PLANT

*WINSTON BUILDER UPDATE REGARDING PUNCHLIST ITEMS AND COMPLETION OF PROJECT

Mr. Ohl updated the Board on the status of the punchlist at the Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Plant. The painter is still on site at Grassy Hole, "under protest", but has not yet been to Trackle Pond. The current value of items on the punchlist reflects the repair to lagoon #2. Superintendent Veracka stated they did a backwash today to test that repair.

Mr. Ohl stated the spare parts are back ordered. The solar display is in hand but has not yet been installed. Then new motor on the KOH pump has arrived and has been installed. He stated the retainage remains at .5%, that value is just over 37K and there has been no further request for payment.

Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked about the recent letter from the attorney for Winston Builders and asked if there had been any further action.

Kristen Berger of Resilient CE, responded, that a letter had been drafted in response, updating them that the payment request had been processed, the retainage had been reduced and the date for the Certificate of Substantial Completion would be August 8th. She stated there had been no further response from Winston Builders or their attorney. She believes they were happy to receive their money. In her response to Winston Builders, she reminded them the Town was not looking to push for liquidated damages when they missed their deadline. She also pointed out the 4th of July incident with the chemical feed piping and how water department employees spent forty hours working to correct the leak and once Winston Builders was notified they were slow to respond to get out there and address the issue. She said this is where the breakdown of trust occurred between Winston Builders and the Town. She said she feels this has all been explained. She recommended to Mr. Ohl to proceed with the Certificate of Substantial Completion with the date of August 8th, attach the punchlist and send it to Winston Builders.

Mr. Ohl presented the change order proposal from the contractor, which is broken down into three components: the cutting and removing of concrete, the trench drain pump and drilling and the KOH valve. The total of the three items is just over 24K. Comprehensive Environmental (CEI) will cover \$11,936 and the \$400 pumping invoice as a credit on their next invoice.

Ms. Berger asked what the third item was, referring to the KOH valve. Mr. Ohl stated the piping between the transfer pump and the individual day tanks appears to be undersized and is creating additional back pressure into the day tank. The piping between the day tank and the pump is smaller than what was out at Trackle Pond. Ms. Berger asked if this was something else that was a design issue. Mr. Ohl responded, yes. He added, the schematics are different. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked about the size of the piping currently and if it would need to be retrofitted. Mr. Ohl stated the piping would remain 2 inch until a certain point and then this retro fit would change to 1 inch. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if this was changing all the piping or adding valves. Mr. Ohl responded, it would be adding valves. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if this was the best way to do this or an acceptable way to address this problem. Mr. Ohl said it is an acceptable way to do this. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked if there would be any long term maintenance issues that would result from this retrofit. Mr. Ohl stated no, they are pretty straight forward back pressure valves. Chairman Loring stated that anytime you install an additional valve, you increase the amount of work to be done in the future versus just changing the size of the pipe, correct? Mr. Ohl responded, correct. Vice Chairman Erlandsen asked why not just replace the piping? Is it an added expense or more expensive than a valve? Mr. Ohl said, it's not as simple as replacing a straight run of pipe. He suggested he would look at it again and re-evaluate that specific item. Superintendent Veracka stated the challenge is that the opening at the top of the tank is sized differently and has to feed into that 1 inch opening. He added, we would probably have to replace the tanks.

Ms. Berger asked Mr. Ohl about the head loss of the 1 inch line. Discussion continued with comparisons made between Trackle Pond and Grassy Hole Plants. Vice Chairman Erlandsen stated he was under the belief that we relied heavily on the plans for Trackle Pond to build Grassy Hole/I-86. He asked if this was an issue at Trackle Pond. Mr. Ohl said he needed to do some more research.

Chairman Loring asked if the break up of concrete was due to a design flaw. Mr. Ohl stated, no, this was a different issue. It was an add-on. Originally, we were considering reconfiguring the analyzer maintenance drain. Discussion continued regarding the need for this item.

Mr. Ohl recommended moving forward on items 1 & 2 and holding off on item 3, until after further research. Commissioner Kostka made the motion to approve the change orders regarding Items 1 and 2. Vice Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: OPM UPDATES FOR GRASSY HOLE/I-86 TREATMENT PLANT
*SRF UPDATES AND CLOSE OUT PROCEDURE

Ms. Berger stated, in consideration of all the change orders and with CEI's credit, the project contingency remains at 137K under budget. Related to the closeout paperwork that the State has sent out, Ms. Berger forwarded a list that needs to be completed by CEI. Mr. Ohl acknowledged the receipt. She stated there were still things left to be done and referenced her email from earlier in the day.

She went on to say that all the pieces need to be completed to close out. Ms. Berger stated she received the final verification form from Carl Pike, Town Treasurer. He had completed most of it and the only issue she saw was the total loan amount was listed at 8.26 million and she didn't believe that full loan amount would be borrowed. Mr. Pike told her that was OK, there was still time to finalize the numbers. Discussion continued regarding the closeout process with the loan.

Mr. Ohl updated the Board on the recent ANR he was asked to review regarding the mall and Marty's GMC. He stated the area in question is outside of the Water Resource District.

NEW BUSINESS:

MEMO DATED 9/26/22 FROM WAGE & PERSONNEL BOARD RE: AMENDMENT TO WAGE AND PERSONNEL BYLAW FOR FY 2024

DEADLINE FOR NEW RECLASSIFICATION REQUEST IS NOVEMBER 21, 2022

Chairman Loring referenced the recent memo received from the Wage & Personnel Board laying out the schedule for any reclassification requests. He asked Ms. Smith if we received any information regarding the recent wage study that

was done. Ms. Smith stated a compensation study had recently been done across town in all positions, both union and wage and personnel. She added, it was her understanding the Town would be using that study in upcoming union negotiations. She said, however, since Wage & Personnel sent this memo out to Department Heads it appears they are open to receiving reclassification requests. Chairman Loring said, in his opinion, it is important for the position of Superintendent to be, at least, in line with the Highway Superintendent position. Ms. Smith added, that was not the case when the results of the study were released. The fact that the Superintendent is required to hold multiple state licenses that need to be renewed and upgraded, in order to provide potable water to the entire town, that should be enough to have that job equal to or rated higher than other positions in town. Commissioner Kostka said he was shocked to see the position not at the same level as the Highway Superintendent. Chairman Loring suggested making an appointment with Wage & Personnel sooner rather than later.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

UPDATE - APPLICATION REVIEW PROCESS FOR WATER REPAIRMEN POSITION

Superintendent Veracka updated the Board on progress at the treatment plant. The valves have been painted at Grassy Hole to match the piping and they look good with consistent colors. The painting still needs to be completed to match Trackle Pond. He added, the Grassy Hole/1-86 Treatment Plant has had no real problems. We did switch the lagoons after the backwash. We will continue to monitor that in the coming days and weeks.

Regarding the job applications, Superintendent Veracka stated we received a few more applications. He and Foreman Eric Hillstrom will be reviewing all applicants and scheduling interviews.

LIGHTENING STRIKE MILLGATE 10/5/22, SECOND OCCURRENCE SINCE 8/23/22

Superintendent Veracka stated Millgate Pump House was struck again by lighting. The VFD survived this time but the motor that drives the well was destroyed. Weston Sampson had a spare motor in stock and installed the new motor today. We were unable to energize due to the wiring being all burnt up. The electrician will be out tomorrow to run the wiring and start the motor up. Commissioner Kostka asked if a lightning rod would need to be installed. Discussion continued regarding costs, insurance, etc...

Superintendent Veracka stated it cost approximately \$7300 for the new motor and installation. Commissioner Kostka recommended purchasing the new motor. Chairman Loring suggested trying to see if the damaged motor can be repaired and used as a spare. Commissioner Kostka asked if that would be a back up motor anywhere else. Superintendent Veracka stated that no it would be specific to that application at that particular well. Discussion continued regarding the quote for rental, purchase and repair options.

Chairman Loring directed Superintendent Veracka to ask Weston Sampson if they have any idea about the installation of grounded lightning rods. Superintendent Veracka said he had asked and that was not their area of expertise. Commissioner Kostka recommended he find someone or a company that does have the expertise.

Chairman Loring asked Superintendent Veracka how many applicants had applied for the water repairman position. Superintendent Veracka responded nine resumes had been received.

REVIEW AND DISCUSS RFP FOR ENGINEERING FROM CEI, RESILIENT CE, BETA AND ENVIRONMENTAL PARTNERS

Ms. Smith asked the Board how they wanted to handle the discussion of the engineering proposals. Chairman Loring stated, in his opinion, he thought it was best to narrow down the interviews to two companies. He felt comfortable with the familiarity and the size of a smaller firm. He stated he was comfortable with having interviews with two of the firms at the next meeting. Commissioner Kostka agreed. Vice Chairman Erlandsen said he would defer to the experience of both Chairman Loring and Commissioner Kostka. Ms. Smith said she would set the interviews up on the next meeting agenda. Ms. Smith asked for the names of firms the board would like to interview. Chairman Loring responded, Comprehensive Environmental and Resilient CE.

Chairman Loring asked Ms. Smith to contact the Svenson Family to schedule a dedication ceremony for November 12th

at 2pm. Ms. Smith reached out to the family and they said that date and time would work.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

LETTER DATED 9/29/22 TO RESIDENT AT 5 NOTTINGHAM DR RE: WATER LEAK ON SERVICE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

OCTOBER 25, 2022 AT 4:30PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Vice Chairman Erlandsen made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Kostka seconded the motion and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0). Meeting adjourned at 5:13pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: OCT 11, 2022 04:30 PM EASTERN TIME (US AND CANADA)

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk