



Onondaga County Legislature

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Chairman

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE – DECEMBER 14, 2021 **JOHN McBRIDE, CHAIRMAN**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Tassone, Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Dr. Chase, Mr. Kelly

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Murphy, Ms. Velasco, Ms. Harty, Ms. Vilardi

Chairman McBride called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m. *A motion was made by Mrs. Tassone and seconded by Dr. Chase to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.* *A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Ms. Abbott to approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.*

1. SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION:

- a. Confirming Appointment to the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conservation District Board (Carlton Conklin) (Sponsored by Mr. Knapp)

Mr. McBride:

- Received a letter of recommendation highly recommending Carlton Conklin by Danielle Volles – Mr. Conklin manages an egg farm in Pompey – well known in the local farm industry

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION: Shannon Harty, PE, Commissioner

- a. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Considering an increase in the Estimated Maximum Cost of Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (\$7,694,000)

Mr. McBride:

- As we know public hearings are good – that's the statement for 2021 – this public hearing is scheduled for February 1, 2022

Ms. Harty:

- All public hearings on the agenda today are associated with bonding activity that supports capital improvements
- Some projects may be started and in progress
- The first public hearing is an increase to an existing bond – project is for the sludge dryer – project started several years ago – funded through operational savings – original amount of the project was \$15.1m – market has changed in construction – preprocured the dryer and building but have remaining contracts that need to be finished – this will increase the project budget to a total of \$22m

Mr. McBride:

- The project went from \$15 m to \$22m – Ms. Harty answered that is correct

Dr. Chase:

- This is the same project with same amount of work and will cost \$7 m more – Ms. Harty answered yes yes

Mr. McBride:

- What is the rationale for the increase – Ms. Harty answered the dryer came in higher than was priced in 2017 so almost five years later and have seen substantial increases in products – labor rates have increased and materials – substantial increase in all areas – within the \$22m is a built in contingency of \$1m because we don't know what the market will do in next six months – hoping doesn't get to the \$22m but will be covered if it does

Dr. Chase:

- When we make these contracts could we write into them that timing doesn't matter and it will cost you this much money

Ms. Harty:

- One of the challenges is the sludge – all sludge now goes to Seneca Meadows and has a significant amount of water – the ratio is about 70/30 – were paying \$85 per ton now that rate is \$125 per ton – costs have increased but return is greater – in 10 years this will be paid for – still makes good sense for us to proceed with project – this will change us from class B solids to class A which will allow us to do other things with our sludge rather than just taking it to a landfill
- Construction kicked off was last week – dryers will arrive in January – hoping to have ribbon cutting by January 2022

Dr. Chase:

- Are they going to close Seneca Meadows – Ms. Harty answered they are working on it

A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

b. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (\$49,405,000)

Ms. Harty:

- Core of 2022 CIP – this is a new project as you recall from Rustan's presentation – combining all projects into single bond resolution – seeking funding of 49,405,000
- Asset renewal of \$800k – fund smaller miscellaneous capital projects at Metro – water conservation and reuse – curb our use of city water – anticipating operational savings from these projects
- Bonding \$10.2m for pump station that feeds Oak Orchard – long overdue
- \$9.936m paying part cash from 2022 budget which will cover miscellaneous replacement of doors and paving roads doors at all facilities
- Fine screening at Meadowbrook Limestone is \$1m and is required under the DEC consent order
- Metro thickener rehabilitation – bid three years ago as part of sludge processing facility – project was over budget so put on hold to reassess – now ready because the digester project is complete
- Route 81 betterment sewer upgrades \$11m at our CSO facilities – if and when 81 project goes forward – will take advantage of the opportunity to upgrade pipes while the area is excavated
- \$3.65m miscellaneous rehabilitation lining, pump station upgrades in phase two of the consolidation project
- \$1.25 WEP owned collection systems to include forcemain repairs

- \$16m for construction of White Pine pump station which will expand Oak Orchard – will serve industrial park and commercial area near railroad tracks

Ms. Abbott:

- In item A talk more about reducing city water – Ms. Harty answered OC has two accounts with city but also run small water facility at metro – currently buying Skaneateles water to wash down water tanks – looking to install infrastructure to reclaim water which will reduce the \$70-80k per month currently paying for water – it’s good business and good use of resources

Dr. Chase:

- Historically these have come to us one at a time - if this gets passed these things will not be coming for discussion – once we approve \$49m we will never see you again

Ms. Harty:

- You are authorizing me to proceed with these projects in a packaged deal – essentially you are authorizing the projects but first step is the public hearing

Ms. Kuhn:

- Time line for these projects

Ms. Harty:

- Asset renewal at Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant \$800,000 – end of 2022
- Improvements to the Davis Road Pump Station and force main \$10,200,000 - end of 2023
- Improvements to various facilities \$9,936,000 (\$4,505,000 bonds/\$5,431,000 cash) - 2023,
- Meadowbrook Limestone Wastewater Treatment Plant Fine screen replacement \$1,000,000 - 2022
- Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant thickener rehabilitation \$1,000,000 additional (\$3,729,000 bonds previously authorized) - end of 2022
- Route 81 betterment sewer upgrades \$11,000,000 - pending DOT construction schedule
- Sewer consolidation improvements \$3,650,000 - probably start 2022 through 2024
- Wastewater transportation system improvements \$1,250,000 - 2022
- Construction of sewer service to the White Pine Industrial Park and surrounding area \$16,000,000, end of 2023

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Abbott to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

c. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing for the Purpose of Considering an Increase in the Cost of the Clinton Street Conveyances and Regional Treatment Facility Project (\$6,000,000)

Ms. Harty:

- This is not a cost increase – 20 years ago OC entered into the ACJ which we are now out of – budgets were based on what they knew at that time – projects were amended to cover actual costs – established about \$600m in expenditures authorized under the ACJ – now into a two party consent order – fully abated the Midland drainage area so would like to move \$6m to Clinton street – not increasing borrowings – simply moving from one project account to the other – and will give us money to do projects that are required under new consent order with DEC

Ms. Kuhn:

- Was Clinton street bonded for – Ms. Harty answered – these are new projects in preliminary stages - \$6m has not been spent or allocated

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

d. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (\$30,000,000)

Ms. Harty:

- Seeking engineering services to start the planning and design for Oak Orchard upgrades tied to and in partnership with northeast corner expansion and revisit plant because we have reached maximum capacity – this will be for engineering costs – will be a big project to add what is needed

Dr. Chase:

- \$30m is a lot to design and plan

Mr. McBride:

- What would the total project cost be – Ms. Harty answered – would be hesitant to throw out a number – a lot of different things will tie into the project – could take up to two years to design – money will be spent over five years

A motion was made by Ms. Abbott, seconded by Ms. Tassone to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Dr. Kelly to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE
DATE: DECEMBER 14, 2021

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Tenesha Myrony	CE Office
Yvette Velasco	Law
Suzanne By	OEA/WRP