



Onondaga County Legislature

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2023 JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIR

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ms. Cody, Mr. McCarron, Mr. Garland

MEMBERS ABSENT: Ms. Kuhn

ALSO PRESENT: see attached list

Chair Abbott called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. *The minutes of the previous meeting had been distributed, and there were no objections to waiving the reading. There were no corrections to the minutes, and the minutes were approved.*

1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Shannon Harty, Commissioner
 - a. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (Ley Creek/Liverpool; June 6, 2023 at 12:55 p.m.)

- Off cycle funding request

FYI to Mr. McCarron

- All of WEP's Capital Improvement Projects are bundled and part of the budget approval process
 - Projects are reviewed under CIP in October
 - Supported bond resolutions go to public hearing, then project Authorization Resolutions are done
 - Bond resolution authorizations happen sometime in December, January or February
 - These are off cycle asks due to size of projects
 - Did not have engineering done to lock in a construction cost estimate to keep in normal cycle
 - Asking for off cycle because do not want to wait till October; would like to advance construction this year
 - The first step of Funding Authorization process is adopting the resolution to schedule a public hearing
 - Everything WEP does that is associated with Capital Projects is subject to a public hearing
 - Different than everyone else because of standalone fund; Article 12, special district laws are followed

Ms. Harty Addressed Committee

- First project is Liverpool and Ley Creek Force Main:
 - Two force mains
 - One comes from village of Liverpool (down Onondaga Lake Parkway, across Destiny to Metro Facility)
 - Ley Creek Force Main – comes from Ley Creek Pump Station by the transfer station
 - Both come from consent order several years ago; experienced sizeable breaks/leaks
 - Need complete rehabilitation/replacement
- Seeking funding; doing in phases; let out in Phase 1
 - Contract 1: Majority will be in Liverpool Force Main from pump station in the Village of Liverpool to Destiny
 - Contract 2: Ley Creek Pump Station will be in phase 2 from pump station to Destiny
- Bonding estimated for first phase at \$20M (awarded \$10M WQIP grant) for this project
- New phase 2 /Destiny, new bridge across canal

Questions/Comments from Committee

- \$10M in addition, so \$30M project?
 - No, it will be a credit against that; Legislature authorized total project cost, any grant becomes funding source
 - Applied for grant during 2022 CFA
 - It was written by WEP and received in the fall

b. A Resolution Calling a Public Hearing in Connection with Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (Metro WWTP; June 6, 2023 at 12:57 p.m.)

- Next phase of construction at Metro – main plant was built in the 30's/40's, big upgrade in 1978
 - Equipment is now 40 plus years old
- Multiple phases of Metro 78 annex asset renewal – phase 1
 - Addressing all of the primary and secondary clarifiers
 - Estimated project cost \$69M
 - Bond resolution this summer; advertising this project for construction fall 2023

Questions and Comments from Committee:

- The cost of \$69M, is this a low estimate?
 - Number is on the conservative side; a little high
 - Do not want to advertise and not have funding to award it
 - Bid two larger construction projects, all coming in under what was estimated
 - Back in 2022 when supply issues were high; starting to see market settle and prices coming down
 - Asking for conservative estimate to go forward

A motion was made by Ms. Cody, seconded by Mr. McCarron, to approve item 1a. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

A motion was made by Mr. Garland, seconded by Ms. Cody, to approve item 1b. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED.

Questions and Comments from Committee:

- What is going on with Micron?
 - WEP has been working with Micron since November/December
 - Working through initial utility services; establishing what capacity/timing needs will be
 - Taking longer than thought, but close
 - Have phased approach for initial municipal service by end of 2024 using existing wastewater treatment plant
 - Need sewer service for entire area along 31 corridor, Caughdenoy Road; authorization received
 - Still hammering out details (size/capacity/location of infrastructure)
- Is 2024 when project will be starting or having it ready?
 - 2 separate projects:
 - Municipal Sewer service (WEP Project) – Expanding sewer service for entire community
 - Secondary Services (Industrial Phase) will follow along a parallel path; environmental reviews
- How is WEP's staffing?
 - Hired 60 people; comes with challenges; learning curve, training, retirements, young management team
 - Going through organizational, cultural changes; with that comes confusion; working through it
 - People want to come and work for us; thanks to the Legislature for securing new vehicles, WEP has a healthy budget and tools, etc.
- Does WEP work with the union and contracts?
 - No, that is a whole other administration level

A motion was made by Mr. McCarron, seconded by Mr. Garland, to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



DEBBIE KAMINSKI, Assistant Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE

DATE: APRIL 18, 2023

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Shannon Harty	WEP
Kate Felice	Law
John DeSantis	Leg.
Darcie Lesniak	leg