

City of Oronoco

Water & Sewer Committee Meeting

Oronoco City Council Room

Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 6:30PM

Agenda

Members present:

Absent:

Others present:

The meeting started at 6:30 PM.

Agenda - Motion by xxxxxxx and 2nd xxxxxxx to accept agenda as Amended. Approved.

- I. Approval of December 10, 2024, minutes. Motion by xxxxx and 2nd by xxxxxx. Approved.
- II. Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)
 - A. WWTF Contract #1 – Construction Status Update
 1. Staab – No Pay request this month.
 2. Outstanding punch list items for contractor to address:
 - a. Electric switch gear partially delivered. Installation schedule pending.
 - b. Kilmer says Eaton just received the transfer switch it was waiting for to presumably complete manufacture of the remaining switchgear equipment component (Second of 2 components). No delivery date has been provided by Eaton but hopefully the second switchgear assembly will be delivered in late January or early February. Note that Kilmer is planning to wait for warmer weather to install the switchgear in mid to late March 2025
 - c. The central control system for HVAC throughout the WWTF and housed in the admin building is not functioning correctly. WHV and Valor Mechanical will send a technician to the WWTF on January 13 to get the system up and running and to confirm that pretreatment building gas detection system is functional and integrated into the central HVAC control system. The city also requested WHV provide a staff training on the central HVAC system.
 - d. Valor HVAC items: Valor Mechanical will send a technician to the WWTF on January 13 to address outstanding HVAC (Unit heater issues)
- III. PeopleService Operation of Wastewater System. Update
 - A. Operations Status Update – Nitrogen limit of 10 mg/L calendar month average is not consistently being met. Operator reports the following:
 - In August we meet the limit and had an average of 6.56 total N
 - In September we had troubles nitrifying and had an average total N of 18.5 this was because of two bad results at the end of the month, we upped the air
 - In October we had trouble nitrifying the first week and de-nitrifying the second week but had an average for the month of 12.81
 - In November we meet the limit and had an average of 9.54
 - Now in December with one result not back we have an average of 25.1 and we are not nitrifying. We believe it is because of the colder water temperatures.

- B. Meeting with MPCA, PeopleService, Stantec and City Staff is scheduled for January 14th
 - C. PeopleService monthly Report.
December Report – UPDATE
- IV. Phase 1A Wastewater, Sanitary Sewer, and Watermain Improvements
- A. Fitzgerald Excavating – No pay request this month
 - B. Contracts #2 and #3 – Construction Status
 - 1. Turf restoration – Both Ellingson and Fitzgerald have overseeding and fine grading issues to correct along with minor punchlist items. Turf restoration items will be addressed next spring.
 - 2. Air / vacuum release manhole training and leakage issue.
 - a. The contractor has provided and installed 3 new valve seats and has promised 2 additional valve seats for the 14” forcemain. The additional valve seats have been shipped and are in City’s possession. Fitzgerald to install the valve seats.
- V. Review Utility – Sewer and Water Rates for 2025.
- A. Cain provided a working spreadsheet to review different percentages for 2025 sewer and water. There are still a lot of unknowns regarding the sewer system regarding revenues, expenses of operating the new plant for 9 months, and residents who have not hooked up sewer and water connections. The conversation will continue at the January meeting to recommend the percentage increase to council for approval at the January 21, 2025, meeting. UPDATE
- VI. Penalty for failure to secure Sewer / Water Connection Permit prior to commencing work.
- A. A general discussion concerning homeowners not obtaining a water or sewer permit and determining what consequences homeowners and/or contractors should be addressed.
 - i. The committee recommend that City staff develop a process to address the problem of residents who fail to secure water or sewer permits and associated penalties. Update. Open and more discussion needed by city staff. UPDATE
- VII. IN-Control Automation & Cybersecurity Service Plan- Updated Proposal- Dylan C. & Cain D.
- A. Cain Dolan and Dylan Christopherson met with IN-Control regarding cybersecurity for the city water system that has been suggested by Minnesota Department of Health. They discussed the firewall fee and the annual service agreement fee issues. IN-Control to respond with a more formal quote. Open item for discussion at the January meeting. UPDATE
- VIII. Cedar Woodlands I- Existing Lift Station,
- A. Electrical Control and Alarm updates being considered for Cedar Woodlands I lift station that is ~20 years old. UPDATE
- IX. Initial discussion regarding Phase 1b Sewer and Water Improvements – timeline & kickoff ideas.
- A. The committee discussed initial items that need to be considered for Phase 1b such as a community assessment and whether one is needed, however, there are septic systems that

are 30+ years old. A question came up at whether PFA would let the city use some of the budgeted Phase 1a funding for initial work for Phase 1b feasibility study and getting on the PFA's Project Priority List. Joe Palen will investigate. UPDATE

- B. Next steps - UPDATE

- X. Review committee members terms of service on the committee, plans for January meeting.
 - A. Length of service for current committee members start date.
 - i. Ross Parker – 1997
 - ii. Dylan Christopherson – May 2018
 - iii. Joe Kimmes – February 2020
 - iv. Ryland Eichhorst – February 2015
 - v. John Stolp – March 2024
 - vi. Open position
 - vii. Open position
 - B. The committee will discuss terms of serving, officers, bylaws at the January 14 meeting

- XI. Next meeting Feb 11, 2025 – suggest moving, Ryland to explain, 6:30 PM in-person.

- XII. Motion by xxxxxxxx and 2nd xxxxxxxx to close the meeting xxxxxx PM. Approved.

Respectively submitted by Ryland Eichhorst