

City of Oronoco
Water & Sewer Committee Meeting
City Hall - Zoom
November 14, 2023, 6:30PM
Unapproved Meeting Minutes

Members present: Dylan Christopherson, Paul Jannetto, Joe Kimmes, Larry Stolp, Ross Parker, Ryland Eichhorst

Absent: None

Others: Joe Palen, Jim Phillips, Steve Norland, Jennifer Zempel

Agenda - Motion by Ryland Eichhorst and 2nd Ross Parker to accept agenda. Approved.

- I. Approval of October 10, 2023, minutes. Meeting minutes not available at the meeting. They will be approved at the December 12 meeting.
- II. Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF)
 - A. WWTF Contract #1 – Construction Status Update and memo provided at meeting.
 - i. Staab Pay Request No. 23 totaling \$84,391.44 or 94.79% complete. Approval November 21, 2023, Council meeting.
 - ii. Material Delivery Delays:
 1. Electrical switchgear delivery – October 2024
 - a. The switch gear continues to be installed.
 2. MCC (Motor Control Center) delivery and installation.
 - a. The MCC's are in the process of being installed.
 3. Lift Station Control Panels delivery and installation.
 - a. These control panels have been delayed.
 - i. Lift station #1 is scheduled for end of December.
 - ii. Remaining LS panels are scheduled to arrive between the end of January and end of March, possibly sooner.
 - iii. WWTF Startup
 1. WWTF commissioning & Training ~ Late November and first half of December 2023

A clean water startup and commissioning will start the 2nd week of December. PeopleService operator will be present during training and start up. This time and paid \$70/hour when present.

2. Wastewater startup – Due to the delay in the manufacture of the lift station control panels, the current plan is for the WWTF and sanitary sewer collection and conveyance system to begin operations in mid to late March 2024.
3. Staab is developing a winter maintenance program for the lift stations and WWTF structures and equipment. Lift station pumps will be removed, stored and maintained per manufacture requirements.
4. Stantec completed submittal of Wastewater System O & M manual.
5. Staab Change Order Request – Heat Trace construction for chemical lines.
 - a. A change order will be coming to document payment of costs for adding the heat trace wiring.
6. Monthly construction coordination meetings are continuing with Staab, subcontractors, and city staff. Next meeting - December (date to be determined).

III. Phase 1A Wastewater, Sanitary Sewer, and Watermain Improvements

A. Contracts #2 and #3 – Construction Status Update

i. Resident Project Status Update #33 was released on October 31, 2023

1. Fitzgerald Excavating – Construction update:

- a. Contractor is working aggressively on turf restoration of areas disturbed by utility installation and street reconstruction.
- b. There are two water service that were not installed via directional drill under 5th Street SW due to bedrock. The two services will be constructed next spring by open cut or directional drill through rock. A request to Ellingson for drilling through rock have been requested.
- c. Several bituminous but joints have been ramps between wear and final bituminous layers to help with snowplowing streets.

2. Ellingson Drainage – Grinder Station construction update

- a. Letters to residents/owners of 815 1st Street NW and 320 1st Place SW were reviewed.
- b. Ellingson still has a few grinder systems to install in November. They will return next spring to finish the hookup of the grinder stations systems.

B. Fitzgerald Pay Request No. 21 totaling \$702,846.06. Approval November 21, 2023, Council meeting.

IV. RFQ/PP Responses – Update

A. Wastewater Systems Operations, Maintenance and Management contract.

- i. Contract was signed by PeopleService and City of Oronoco
 - 1. They will have a representative at the startup and commissioning in December.
- V. Discuss irrigation meter usage – Cain
 - i. The committee discussed the various options for homes with irrigation and how the extra water flow would impact on their sewage rate.
 - ii. Adding a 2nd water meter to homes with irrigation system could cost \$450 for a meter and a couple of hundred dollars to have the meter installed.
 - iii. An alternative method would be to average the January, February, and March water usages to determine the annual sewer rate. Staff need to review the software to see if this can be done with minimal cost.
 - iv. Open for more discussion for how to handle the sewer rates before the treatment plant is operational next spring. OPEN Item.
- VI. Discuss Cross-Connection Control program and Backflow Prevention updates for Utility Code – Cain
 - i. Cain shared Rochester’s Public Utility (RPU) booklet for Public Water System Cross-Connection Control and Backflow Prevention Program for Rochester, Minnesota.
 - 1. Rochester requires all commercial buildings to have backflow prevention equipment installed to protect the public potable water supply from the possibility of contamination or pollution due to backflow of backsiphonage of contaminants or pollutants through the water service connection. Essentially, isolating the water supply inside the buildings so as not to escape into the public water system.
 - 2. Backflow devices for residential irrigation systems are typically installed to prevent contamination from inground systems flowing back into the public water supply.
 - 3. Open for more discussion. OPEN item. Good discussion by the committee and they recognize that Oronoco should adopt a similar requirement.
- VII. Presentation of Oronoco Wastewater System project at MPCA - Annual Collection and Wastewater Conference on November 29, 2023.
 - A. Joe and Ryland will give a presentation to this conference at no cost to the city.
- VIII. Next meeting, December 12, 2023, 6:30 PM in-person.
- IX. Motion by Larry Stolp and 2nd by Ross Parker to close the meeting at 7:45 PM. Approved

Respectively submitted by Ryland Eichhorst