

## Village Board Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM – Rosendale Municipal Building

Duane Ciske, Village President

Trustees: Kurt Caramanidis, Elizabeth Crook, Chuck Feldner, Barb Hoch, Mark Simon & Tricia Yeager

### Public Hearing

**1. Call Public Hearing to Order** – President Ciske called meeting to order. He mentioned that Tom Fitzwilliams, from MSA, will take any questions at the end of the public hearing.

Tom Fitzwilliams introduced himself. He began to discuss why the project is needed and went over a brief history of the wastewater plant. He mentioned that the Wastewater Facility Planning process began in 2018. He stated with this upgrade we have to make sure that the water that comes thru the plant-comes out clean in the end and that it meets the DNR permit.

Tom Fitzwilliams began the power point and went thru all the possible alternatives. It was recommended that Option #5 would be the best alternative – which is the Sanitaire Treatment process on the existing site with no tertiary filter. The possible cost for this option is \$6,400,000.00. It was mentioned that this alternative would be the best alternative because it is the most cost effective alternative and is also predicted to be capable of meeting future effluent phosphorus limits.

The funding for the project would come from existing funds in the Wastewater account, sewer use charges and the WDNR Clean Water Fund (CWF). This program is available to finance wastewater treatment plant improvement with low interest loans and grants. The term of a loan would be 20 years. It was mentioned that the CWF has grant money available right now and Tom Fitzwilliams feels that the Village would qualify for a grant. It was mentioned that in order to qualify for a grant, this Facility planning step needs to be done and submitted. Sewer rates for the residents/businesses are an estimate at this time depending on grant money.

Tom Fitzwilliams explained the chart on the state wide study that was done for sewer charges and monthly average costs for various utilities.

September 30, 2019 is the deadline for the funding application for the Clean Water Fund.

### **2. Persons wishing to speak in support or against the Wastewater Facility Plan -**

Jim Westphal asked about the phosphorous limits and when is the new permit beginning? It was mentioned that the new permit will be in 2022/2023 and be in effect beginning in 2024.

Jim Westphal stated that there was a time when the Eldorado community being included was discussed. He was wondering what happened with that discussion. It was mentioned that nothing went any further in discussion.

Jim Westphal asked about Power Packaging. He was wondering if Power Packaging is included in the new plant. It was mentioned that Power Packaging's industrial flows would not be included in with the designing of the new plant. Power Packaging would only be discharging normal wastewater from bathrooms and sinks, etc. They will be hauling out their high strength industrial waste.

Jerry Fairbank asked what the problem with the phosphorous is. He mentioned that he used to farm and it could spread on fields. He also mentioned the nitrates. Tom Fitzwilliams stated that phosphorous is a nutrient found excessive in surface water in the state. He mentioned it is also found in human waste. There is so much that it's leading to water issues. Now the new limits are coming with the permits.

Jerry Fairbank asked about discharging into the Eldorado marsh and wondered if that was acceptable. It was stated that that was not an option. Jerry F. mentioned that he doesn't see the phosphorous being a problem. Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned that the discharge is actually a stream that goes to the Fond du Lac River. The phosphorous discharged from the plant is currently about 2.5 mg/L; however, limits could get as strict but the new proposed total maximum daily load (TMDL) study would provide a more relaxed limit around 0.3 mg/L. In many years to come the wastewater plant would likely need to upgrade and put in an Effluent Filtration system. It was mentioned that based on testing performed at the current wastewater treatment plant, a chemical dosing system upgrade would likely meet the future TMDL limit without an effluent filtration system.

Dale Malson stated he was going to ask financial stuff but brought up the news and New York with the extremists – money and politics. He asked when the new rates would begin. It was mentioned that the new rates would be in effect December 2019/January 2020. Dale Malson commented “so we have to prepay”. Tom Fitzwilliams stated that we have to establish the new rate before we get loan so that we can see we can pay back loan with the established rates.

Dale Malson mentioned how the rates changed from single/family rates (2 different rates) to everyone having the same rate. He mentioned the people who are on a fixed income and how this increase would be difficult. He stated that the only bonus is that we don't turn off the service like bigger cities can do when people become delinquent. He mentioned that when the sewer bills are delinquent, late fees get added and they eventually end up on their tax bill.

Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned that the bills will start coming in January 2020 and the money will be needed to be in the bank to start making the 1<sup>st</sup> loan payment. He reminded us that the loan would be a 20 year loan.

Ron Hansen asked what other buildings have different rates. How do the businesses get charged? It was mentioned that Power Packaging, the convenience stores, restaurants, commercial businesses all have different rates. It was mentioned that because the Village does not have their own water, we have wells, the Village has to treat the residents the same and each household is charged the same amount.

Patricia Disterhaft stated she is a retired, single person living in her home. She stated that the rates had jumped from a single rate to family rate and now are jumping up again. She stated that the single, elderly people in this Village will have a hard time with another increase and are contemplating moving because they can't afford another increase.

Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned that with the amount of people who live in this Village is very small. It's not their intended plan to force people to move out of the Village. He stated that they keep chiseling the plan more and more to lower the cost. He has seen same situation in other smaller communities as well.

Jerry Fairbank asked what effects will this have on our schools, churches, restaurants and apartments. He stated that property taxes would increase because of the schools and wondering if this would cause a referendum. He stated that our restaurants are small family owned restaurants; churches are non-taxable and worried about the

people living in the apartments-if they are going to be able to handle an increase. We stated we are going to have a trickledown effect.

Tom Fitzwilliams stated that everyone will have the same amount of increase. The increase is about 40%.

Jerry Fairbank mentioned that he has seen communities have maintenance referendums and how school budgets are tight now. Jerry also asked about the projected growth for the Village and stated that Rosendale is becoming too expensive to live and we can't put in city water.

Village President Duane Ciske mentioned that how when homes go up for sale, they sell right away because people want to move to the Village of Rosendale. President Ciske also mentioned that the Village is "land locked" right now and we need development.

Tom Fitzwilliams read the projection of population from the Facility Plan.

Jerry Fairbank said we had annexed property off Wilson Street and stated he was at a meeting. President Ciske stated there are only a couple lots available to build homes and they are located in the Becker subdivision.

Ron Hansen asked if we grow, will we be at our max right away. Tom Fitzwilliams said we would be roughly half the capacity. Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned you look at the 20 year growth plan.

Ryan Priebe stated that since alternate #5 doesn't include the filter and if we don't do it now, will it cost more later. Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned we have a 10 plus window. Tom stated that he wouldn't have put this option on the table if we couldn't meet permit.

Kevin Verdine asked if this is just an estimate and if we don't get a grant rates will jump.

Jim Westphal asked if we don't get the grant is this project dead or alive? Tom Fitzwilliams stated that the Clean Water Fund is looking really good. He also stated that our scores are good to qualify. Jim Westphal stated that there was a plan sitting on the shelf 10 years ago to upgrade the wastewater plant. He stated he thought we didn't move forward then because we didn't receive a grant. It was mentioned that the reasoning we didn't move forward was because Power Packaging didn't want to move forward at that time. It was mentioned that if we find out we don't get a grant; we can stop with the process before the bids go out.

Dale Malson about the rate estimate of \$220 per quarter. Tom Fitzwilliams said we are trying to be as conservative as we can. We don't want to have to raise rates but still have to pay the bills. Tom also stated that we could have "bad years" but rates could make up for the bad year.

Jerry Fairbank mentioned about the project 10 years ago and the funds. Jerry asked if we have funds available. He asked if we have about \$300,000.00. Tom Fitzwilliams stated that the Village has \$1.6 million saved in the bank for this project.

Kurt Caramanidis, Village Trustee, stated that we are all tax payers and we all pay sewer bills. He stated we watch every nickel and we want what's best for the Village.

Dale Malson mentioned again about the fixed income residents and those people possibly having to move out of the Village.

Jerry Fairbank said what happens is our funding doesn't go thru. What will the DNR do to us if we can't raise the money? It was mentioned that if we fall out of compliance we could be fined and have legal proceedings with the DNR. He also asked how long we can last if we don't build a new plant. Public Works Director Dan Holdridge stated that he cannot answer that but can tell you what is currently happening with pipes breaking, etc. The current plant is old.

Jeremy Giebel asked if the residents in Donovan Circle pay for sewer. The answer was yes they do. Jeremy then said why they were never on the sewer system. It was stated that they are on our sewer system and that Donovan Circle is part of the Village.

Tom Fitzwilliams mentioned that any written comments will be accepted. There will be a hard copy of the Facility Plan left at the Clerk's office and it is also available on the Village website.

President Duane Ciske stated that we are looking at the best possible option for the Village to keep the rates down as best we can. He mentioned that the Board has to pay the rates too.

**3. Adjourn the Public Hearing** – Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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**AGENDA ITEM 1 – Call Village Board meeting to order** – February meeting was called to order at 7:15 PM by President Duane Ciske and the following were present at this meeting:

Trustees: Kurt Caramanidis, Elizabeth Crook, Barb Hoch & Tricia Yeager

Staff: Public Works Director Dan Holdridge, Chief of Police Kevin Verdine & Clerk Emily Wirkus

Guests:

**AGENDA ITEM 2 – Pledge of Allegiance**

**AGENDA ITEM 3 – Approve minutes of 1-28-19 meeting, as circulated** – Motion made by Trustees Crook/Hoch to approve the January 28, 2019 minutes with a 5-0-2 roll call. Trustees Feldner and Simon were absent.

**AGENDA ITEM 4 – Public Comments** – President Ciske asked if there was any more discussion about the public hearing. There was nothing else mentioned.

**AGENDA ITEM 5 – Discuss & approve, if necessary, Wastewater Facility Plan** – Motion was made to approve Facility Plan, move forward with the Facility Plan and submit to DNR. Motion was made by Trustees Yeager/Crook to approve Facility Plan, move forward with the Facility Plan and submit to DNR. Motion was carried by a 5-0-2 roll call. Trustees Feldner and Simon were absent from meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – Approve list of paid checks from January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019** – Motion was made by Trustees Caramanidis/Hoch to approve the paid checks from January 1, 2019 through January 31, 2019 carried by a 5-0-2 roll call. Trustees Feldner and Simon were absent.

**AGENDA ITEM 8 – Next meeting: March 25, 2019 at 6:00 PM – Rosendale Municipal Building, 211 N. Grant**

Reminder was made that there will be a Special Board meeting on Monday, March 11, 2019 at 6 pm.

**AGENDA ITEM 9 – Correspondence** – Nothing mentioned.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 – President’s Report** – President Ciske had no other comments but did ask the audience if there were any other comments. Jerry Fairbank stated that we had a very nice public hearing. President Ciske stated that Jerry had very good questions.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 – Adjourn the meeting** – Meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.