

TOWN OF MANHATTAN
Special Meeting
April 16, 2020
MINUTES

Mayor Glen Clements called the meeting to order via Zoom meeting at 7:00 pm. Council members Callie Hamilton, Betsy Mancuso, Dan Ryan and Greg Schack were present. Also present were Bill Luehrs, Vianna Larrabaster, Mace Mangold, April (no last name provided), CT Wambacki, Andy Powner, Diane LeTendre, Wendy (no last name provided), Jill (no last name provided), and one additional woman who did not provide a name. Engineers present related to the project were Kyle Scarr, Scott Buecker, Nicole Residke, and Camille Johnson. Clerk/Treasurer Pam Humphrey was also present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

PRELIMINARY ENGINEERING REPORT – WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM ALTERNATIVES:

Public Hearing

Clerk read public hearing notice.

Kyle Scarr, Town Engineer: He presented the Power Point and turned the presentation over to Scott Buecker.

Scott Buecker: AE2S: He gave an overview of the current situation and gave a brief summary of the treatment alternatives that were explored. He stated that the plant is currently at its limit for treatment capacity. The need for improvements stems from the inability to remove total nitrogen from the wastewater to meet the DEQ discharge permit if the flow increases at all.

There are four main alternatives, with one additional option for future expansion. The first is to do nothing, which is not an option if the Town expands at all.

The second alternative is a minor improvements project that would have a design average day flow rate of .37 MGD. This option would add internal mixed liquor recycle, add a redundant blower and small blower building and locate all blowers in a building, add media for mixed film and a dewatering facility. This option is projected to cost \$3.9 Million.

The third alternative is a 4 Train MLE with a design average day flow rate of .63 MGD with redundancy. It would construct two more treatment trains, reconfigure existing basins to MLE, expand the UV system, aerobic digestion expansion, and a dewatering facility. The projected total cost is \$16.1 Million.

The fourth alternative is a 6 Train MLE with a design average day flow rate to .8 MGD with redundancy. It would construct four more treatment trains, MLE configuration, add blower, chemical, and electrical buildings, expand the UV system, aerobic digestion expansion, dewatering facility. The projected total cost is \$24.1 Million.

A fifth alternative for future expansion would be a 4 Train MBR with a design average day flow rate of 1.0 MGD. It would construct two more treatment trains, build a

membrane facility at the end of all four trains, add blower, chemical, and electrical buildings, expand the UV system, aerobic digestion expansion, and a dewatering facility. The projected total cost is \$26.6 Million.

He stated that the costs are high, which many small communities cannot afford. The state and federal government have programs to help with affordability of meeting regulations.

He showed a capacity and cost summary for each alternative. He also summarized the advantages and disadvantages of each of the alternatives.

Mayor Clements asked for Council questions.

Councilman Dan Ryan: He asked how the average annual flow was calculated and if they were able to take into account that the Town just did an improvement project on the lines in town which eliminated some of the infiltration that had been happening in the past. The engineers explained that the number is the maximum flow day divided by the average yearly flow. We have not gone through a cycle after the project so the actual maximum flow currently has not been calculated. The ultimate capacity of the flow is not changed by the repair because the flow will be increased with more connections.

Councilwoman Hamilton: She asked what the estimated population would be to need the .6 or .8 MGD designs. The engineers stated that would be roughly double what the town is at now and double Churchill.

Rates and funding were also discussed. Rate changes would be dependent on how much and what types of funding the Town could get for the project. The Town does not have to accept funding and do the project if they choose not to.

Kyle Scarr, TD&H: He gave an overview of chapter 5 of the PER. The PER team met with the Mayor and the plant engineer in March. They made a selection of the recommended alternative. They recommended the third alternative for treatment and the combined discharge alternative (6th) with ground water and surface water discharge. He explained the reasons for the selection, which included getting the Pioneer Crossing well permitted and being able to use those water rights. They are recommending making the project a phased project. He described the phasing. The first phase would be to put in the groundwater discharge infrastructure, do the minor improvements of alternative two and acquire the water rights. The cost of the first phase would be approximately \$7.7 Million. It would happen in 2020-2022. The second phase would be to do the plant expansion and upgrades. It would cost approximately \$16 Million and would happen around 2024. Phasing allows some time to find out more about some of the unknown issues with the regulatory agency and new discharge permit. The Town could participate in two rounds of funding, but show the costs as a total. This would allow the Town to possibly qualify for a better funding package.

Nicole Rediske, TD&H: She presented some estimates on conservative possible funding alternatives. She presented two different loan options. She also presented some assumptions about what the user rates could be with the funding options. With the funding options presented, user rates would be approximately \$96-\$99 for sewer base rates. They also plan to apply for a WRDA grant, but it is unpredictable if it would be awarded.

Mayor Clements asked for Public Comments. There were no public comments.

Kyle Scarr, TD&H: He stated that Chapter 5 of the PER is done and Chapter 6 will be the written detail of the preferred alternative. Chapter 7 will be a summary. They are currently putting together the grant applications and have been talking to the funding agencies. There will be another public hearing in May to discuss the environmental documents. They would like the Council to make a decision to adopt the PER and authorize the Mayor to sign the funding applications. The funding will not be awarded until the next legislative session.

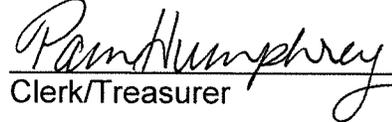
The Council briefly discussed personnel needs related to the different alternatives.

ADJOURN:

Motion- Ryan; Second - Hamilton; Vote- Unanimous: Motion passed to adjourn the meeting.



Mayor



Clerk/Treasurer