

DOVER EYOTA ST. CHARLES AREA SANITARY DISTRICT
Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting

April 21, 2015

Members Present:

Wes Bussell
Ray Schuchard
Bill Spitzer
Wayne Getz
Matt Elder

Staff:

Paul Ihrke

Guest:

Tom Dye, Stantec

Absent:

Angela Ihrke
Tyrel Clark

1. Call to Order:

Chairman Bill Spitzer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Set Agenda:

Motion made by Wayne Getz to set agenda, seconded by Matt Elder. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

3. Approve Minutes of the March 17, 2015 Regular Meeting:

Motion made by Ray Schuchard, seconded by Wes Bussell to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2015. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

4. Approve Receipts & Disbursements and Summary of Assets:

Wayne Getz asked question regarding the 2015 budget and why is the equipment repair expense account already at 66% of the budgeted amount for the year.

The majority of the balance in this account consists of the annual \$2070.00 payment to Ziegler for generator maintenance contract and \$1800.00 for auto dialer repairs at the lift station.

Motion made by Wes Bussell to approve the Receipts and Disbursements/Summary of Assets as presented. Seconded by Ray Schuchard. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

There was no discussion on the 2015 budget.

5. Plant update:

a) received an award for compliance of our permit for the past year which was presented at the MPCA conference last month.

b) the new tile floor has been installed and the painting is finished.

c) we are waiting on bids for a new roof for the main building and for office and outdoor lighting.

d) we have been approved for biosolids application on 80 acres to the north of the plant.

6. Craig Ferguson's meter installation update:

Mr. Ferguson's meters are installed and operational.

7. Lawn mowing bids:

Two bids were received. First bid is from Bill Goetz with the option of either paying \$35.00 per time for mowing or a flat rate of \$450.00 at the end of the mowing season and he also agrees to a three year agreement. The other bid is from Robert and Richard Fabian proposing a \$70.00 charge for each mowing. Motion made by Wayne Getz to enter into a three year agreement with Bill Goetz for mowing at the flat rate of \$450.00 per season. No trimming services will be needed. Seconded by Wes Bussell. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

8. Capital Improvement Plan Update:

For 2015, indoor and outdoor lighting was added in the amount of \$14,321. The amount to replace the roof on main building was increased to \$81,195 from \$70,200. Board was asked if the \$6,500 expense for security cameras should be left in the CIP. It was decided to leave it as a discussion item. In 2016 there is \$80,000 budgeted for modifications for phosphorus removal which may be required with the new MPCA permit. This item will probably be moved to a later year depending on what is written in the new MPCA permit. The Board will look over the CIP update and bring back comments to next board meeting.

9. Nitrate discussion:

Tom Dye of Stantec is in attendance tonight to talk about nitrate removal. The MPCA gave him a definite maybe in regards to nitrate removal and including limits in the permit but phosphorus may not have limits since the Whitewater River levels aren't that high for phosphorus. MPCA studies on nitrate and phosphorus levels in the Whitewater River are not complete.

Mr. Dye stated that this plant is already set up pretty well for nitrate removal and may need only minor modifications. Currently operators are shutting off aerators for an hour every 3 hours and are coming out with pretty good numbers in the months from April-September. Test results for April through September had decreased from 16.6 mg/l to 1.4 mg/l whereas for January, February and March results were 33.4, 30.3, 27.4. This shows that shutting off the aerators to control the amount of oxygen does help to reduce nitrate levels. To prevent freezing in the colder months the aerators cannot be shut off. Need to come up with a solution for the colder months to prevent freezing and lower the nitrate levels. The current loading rate is low which also helps with the options. If timers and mixers are all that is needed the cost would be around a \$100,000 or less and if baffle walls would need to be added the total cost would be a few hundred thousand dollars. Current permit expires May 2016 and if a new permit has a nitrate limit imposed on the plant the permit will include a schedule of when the facility plan should be completed, by what date construction needs to start, etc. By the time these are completed and financing obtained it could be near the end of the next permit cycle, or 2021, before the actual improvements would be done.

Paul Ihrke was asked his opinion on whether or not Dan Brandt was referring to the plant in the news article where he states "we have major load of nitrates going from Eyota, Dover and St. Charles and out into the river down there". Paul referred to MPCA findings that 70% of nitrates come from farm land and the rest from sewer plants, forests, runoff from towns, septic systems, and the atmosphere and his thought is that Mr. Brandt was referring to specific towns and not the sewer plant.

10. Fill vacant seat on personnel committee:

There is a vacant position on the personnel committee due to Bruce Christie's departure. Wes Bussell has expressed an interest in filling this position. Motion made by Matt Elder to appoint Wes Bussell to fill the position on the personnel committee. Seconded by Ray Schuchard and Wayne Getz. All voted in favor. Motion carried. A personnel committee meeting will be set up in the next month.

11. Other Business:

No other business to discuss.

There being no further business a motion was made by Wes Bussell, seconded by Wayne Getz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm. All voted in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Kennedy

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