



Onondaga County Legislature

JAMIE McNAMARA
Clerk

JAMES J. ROWLEY
Chairman

MELANIE VILARDI
Deputy Clerk

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE – JANUARY 18, 2022 JULIE ABBOTT, CHAIRPERSON

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Chase, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. McBride, Dr. Kelly

ALSO PRESENT: Ms. Velasco, Mr. Glazier, Ms. Murphy, Ms. Harty, Mr. Morgan, Ms. Lesniak, Mr. DeSantis, Ms. Vilardi

Chairperson Abbott called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. *A motion was made by Dr. Kelly and seconded by Dr. Chase to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Mr. McBride to approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Shannon Harty, P.E., Commissioner

- a. Reducing Authorized Costs for Certain Improvements Made for the Midland Avenue CSO Abatement Project in and for the County of Onondaga, New York Pursuant to Section 41 of the Local Finance Law, and Amending Resolution Nos. 50-2008 and 51-2008 (\$6,000,000)

Ms. Harty:

- Keep in mind there are a lot of resolutions – this resolution is partnered with 1.h. and 1.i. – all related to capital programs – one authorizes the project and the second resolution is for the bonding of the same project
- Reducing costs for CSO project – original ACJ projects started 20 years ago – relates to Midland Ave which is fully abated - \$6m needs to move to Clinton sewer storage which has not been completely abated
- 1.a. reduces the budget for Midland
- 1.h. increases the Clinton project and 1.i. is for the bond

A motion was made by Mr. McBride seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- b. A Resolution Approving the Increased Cost of Certain Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District (\$7,694,000)

Ms. Harty:

- This resolution authorizes the increase in the project that was started in 2018 initially approved for \$15.1m – prices have changed and given us an opportunity to look at equipment and design - \$2m is for larger dryers – previously looking at smaller units which would get us closer – would like to get a larger unit to assure to 95% solids which will get us to a class a - better alternatives for sludge if more water is removed
- Conveyers will be included so seeking \$.5m to replace these within this project
- \$1m in contingency because dealing with volatility with bidding
- \$3.5m cost overruns with contracts that were bid in Fall 2021
- \$4m to enhance the project and \$3m in volatility
- Significant increase in sludge hauling costs – will be reduced as a result of this project

- 2020 spent \$4m on hauling sludge – this will help us control these costs

Dr. Chase:

- When will this be finished – Ms. Harty answered starting in September-October of this year – hoping to take advantage of operating savings in 2024 – will have a full year to see the savings

Ms. Kuhn:

- What happened to the smaller dryers – Ms. Harty answered – building is larger and can handle the larger dryers – the smaller dryers were not yet purchased

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Ms. Kuhn to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- c. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of an Additional \$7,694,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay the Increased Cost of Certain Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of the Metro Bio solids Drying Project (\$7,694,000)

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. McBride to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- d. A Resolution Approving Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$49,405,000)

Ms. Harty:

- CIP booklet provides a lot more of the detail – seeking authorization – program is \$58m total – a portion of phase 2 of sewer consolidation – spending plan includes a use of some cash – \$3.729m project that was previously authorized
- \$830k at metro in bonded debt – improvements at tertiary systems – two large pumps will be repaired
- Second project is Davis Road pump station – main pump station that feeds Oak Orchard - \$10.2m bond resolution installing new chemical feed systems, new meters and controls – substation upgrades to this facility – DEC approved and will go out to bid next quarter
- Third project is group of miscellaneous projects \$2.37m for eleven different projects – generally safety upgrades
- Fourth project is \$2.13m updating MCCs, SCADAs, control systems – major backbones that keep facilities running
- Fifth project is for Meadowbrook Limestone fine screens - part of the consent project – upgrades the screening so garbage will go in dumpster instead of through the plant
- Metro thickener – was bid in 2020 for \$3.7m – bid in 2020 and came in over budget so was tabled – now seeking additional funds to go forward in 2022
- Route 81 sanitary sewer betterments \$11m – taking advantage of DOT work – replacing pipes in the proximity of the construction work being done within 81 corridor
- \$3.65m within Baldwinsville Seneca Knolls – includes some sewer lining
- \$1.25m in repairing sewer lines and replacing manholes
- Construction funding for new pump station to Oak Orchard where there is no sewer services – business corridor along 31 and Caughdenoy

Ms. Abbott:

- Oak Orchard will service what organizations – how long will it take – Ms. Harty answered anticipating development and have been asked by current businesses - design and construction will be about two years – a bit quicker than normal because we have existing easements

Mr. Rowley:

- Would do this regardless of what happens at White Pines– Ms. Harty answered yes

Ms. Harty:

- Answered Mr. Rowley’s question how the \$11m and assuming this assumes the 81 grid – DOT will be fixing any upgrades directly impacting by them – about \$40m they will fix of WEP’s infrastructure – anything in proximity will be bundled in - \$11m represents what OC should fix because it’s in prothat they won’t fix but would be worthy for us to fix

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. McBride to approve this item. Ayes: 3 Abbott, Kelly, McBride Nos: 0 Abstentions: 2 Chase, Kuhn; MOTION CARRIED

- e. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$49,405,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Certain Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District in and for Said County (\$49,405,000)

A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Ayes: 3 Abbott, Kelly, McBride Nos: 0 Abstentions: 2 Chase, Kuhn; MOTION CARRIED

- f. A Resolution Approving Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of the Engineering Design for an Upgrade and Treatment Expansion to the Oak Orchard Wastewater Treatment Plant in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$30,000,000)

Ms. Harty:

- Largely residential service area – Clintons Ditch is included – some years back the facility maximized its use and was reevaluated by DEC – needs a major capital improvement – looking at building out a sludge digester and handler at Oak Orchard – make it a mini metro plant – haul sludge from Oak Orchard 4-5 trips per day – include a new digester project that would allow waste hauling at this facility – needs to be expanded – makes a lot of sense to do this expansion at Oak Orchard – not a lot of neighbors – looking at 20-25mgd capacity

Dr. Kelly:

- Any numbers on the savings – Ms. Harty answered not at the moment but could get the information
- These improvements are being done with a large organization in this area – Ms. Harty answered have looked at other facilities to see what the waste water will look like – don’t have a final plan – would say that 35-40% driven by solids handling and the biological components

Dr. Chase:

- Is the \$30m to figure it out – Ms. Harty answered the \$30m will cover all the way from initial planning to the end of design – don’t have a construction projection – can’t get to this without the design
- How long will we wait to see if there is a plan when we don’t know if there is anyone going in to White Pines
- Is there something that we don’t know that we should know about what is going into the space

Ms. Harty:

- \$30m is to upgrade the facility – a lot of what we are looking to do is the sludge processes, digesters – would be a 5-6 year project – end of 2023 before looking at capital builds – Oak Orchard needs to be upgraded regardless of what happens at White Pines

Mr. Bush:

- At one time the county wasn’t expanding the facilities – where do we stand now – you are expanding with the \$30m

Ms. Harty:

- Baldwinsville Seneca Knolls will see some expansion – the limitation is a result of limited equipment – the \$30m isn't necessary giving us more capacity – started to look at I&I when we tighten up our collection system to preserve capacity for rate paying users and not storm water – look at where we were 5-10 years ago with disjointed ownership – we are looking to better manage our assets

A motion was made by Dr. Kelly, seconded by Mr. McBride to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Abbott, Chase, Kelly, McBride Nos: 0 Abstentions 1 Kuhn; MOTION CARRIED

- g. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$30,000,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Certain Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District in and for Said County (\$30,000,000)

A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Ayes: 4 Abbott, Chase, Kelly, McBride Nos: 0 Abstentions: 1 Kuhn; MOTION CARRIED

- h. A Resolution Approving Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$6,000,000)

A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Dr. Kelly to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

- i. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,000,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay the Cost of Improvements in and for the Onondaga County Sanitary District, Intended to Enable the County to Comply with Requirements Set Forth in the Amended Consent Judgment and Related Municipal Compliance Plan for the Clinton Street Conveyances and Regional Treatment Facility Project, in and for Said County (\$6,000,000)

A motion was made by Mr. McBride, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

2. **OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENT: Travis Glazier,**

- a. **BOND:** A Resolution Authorizing Ash Tree Management in and for the County of Onondaga, New York, at a Maximum Estimated Cost of \$525,000, and Authorizing the Issuance of \$525,000 Bonds of Said County to Pay Costs Thereof (\$525,000)

Mr. Glazier:

- Additional \$525k for ongoing ash tree program – identified the problem with ash trees in 2013 – tree inventory identified approximately 44k ash trees and prioritized their removal – cost removal once dead is higher – concern with falling trees
- 2015 OC began funding \$350k then \$750 for 3 years
- Soil and Water making great progress to shrink the number of trees and captured economies of scale
- Soil and Water has done great work with contractors and seeking grants – planting only a portion of what we have lost but it is a start
- 19k trees have been removed – most are at county parks – ESF showed there will be a population collapse and becomes more manageable – it will be a while before we see this in OC – half way point for removal process - Soil and Water trained their employees to do the injections – ahead of schedule and under budget – will continue to borrow at the same rate

Ms. Abbott:

- Soil and Water also does damage control – they have done a great job managing this program and replacing trees

Mr. Glazier:

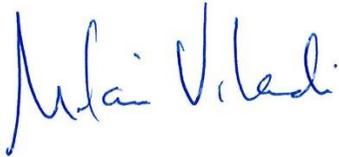
- A lot of the tree planting grants are low dollars which is timely to track and capture
- Looking to proactively look at the next potential threat

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

A motion was made by Ms. Kuhn, seconded by Mr. McBride to adjourn the meeting. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk
Onondaga County Legislature

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE: **ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE**
DATE: **JANUARY 18, 2022**

NAME (Please Print)	DEPARTMENT/AGENCY
Yvette Velasco	Law
Travis Glazier	Office of Env.
Tenesha Murphy	CE office
Shannon Harby	WBP
Steve Morgan	CEO
Darcie Cosnak	
John DeSantis	