



# Onondaga County Legislature

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Chairman

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## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE - JANUARY 19, 2021 VIRTUAL MEETING CASEY JORDAN, CHAIRMAN

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mrs. Tassone, Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, Dr. Chase, Mr. Holmquist  
**ALSO PRESENT:** Mr. Knapp, Mr. Bush, Mrs. Ervin, Ms. Kuhn, Mr. DeSantis, Ms. Vilardi, Ms. Lesniak, Mr. Mento, Ms. Velasco

Chairman Jordan called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. *A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan to waive the reading of the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED. A motion was made by Dr. Chase and seconded by Mrs. Tassone to approve the minutes of the previous committee. MOTION CARRIED.*

1. **WATER ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION:** Frank M. Mento, P.E., Commissioner
  - a. **A Resolution Approving Proposed Improvements for the Harbor Brook Drainage District Consisting Miscellaneous Culvert and Channel Improvements, in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$200,000)**

Mr. Mento:

- Six resolutions with three projects – each project has two resolutions - one to authorize the project and the second to authorize the bond
- Maintenance project; ongoing rehab work on Harbor Brook which will allow water flow

*A motion was made by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, seconded by Dr. Chase to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

- b. **A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$200,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Improvements for the Harbor Brook Drainage District Consisting of Miscellaneous Culvert and Channel Improvements (\$200,000)**

*A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

- c. **A Resolution Approving Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of Phase I of the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Annex Asset Renewal Project, in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$4,000,000)**

Mr. Mento:

- Improvements to Metro campus - \$4M will take it to engineering – replacement of electrical components, grit station, odor control mechanicals, and concrete rehab in clarifiers
- Answered Dr. Chase's question confirming engineering, planning and design only; replaced digester covers a few years ago; these monies will be for clarifiers which treat water

- Construction value \$50-70M; pivoting away from the Lake and now time to look at Metro assets
- Allows WEP to get a construction bid; need extensive set of plans to allow for construction bids
- Complicated, many moving parts
- Answered Mr. Jordan’s question – life of parts once installed is 40-50 years

Mr. Knapp

- Rebuilding a lot of the original infrastructure; actually treating the water as it arrives – replacing equipment that is 50 years old

Mr. Mento:

- Answered Mrs. Abbott-Kenan’s question – time frame to bid and then begin work is 3-5 years

Dr. Chase:

- Asked if this is bid out and are there provisions that only local people may bid

Mr. Mento:

- A complete RFP will be put out to outside engineers
- Typical bidders will be local; those that already do work for Onondaga County
- Rarely does WEP engage in contractors outside of Syracuse

Mr. Jordan

- Is the capture of methane vs burning it off included in the scope?

Mr. Mento:

- That project is underway currently – upon completion the methane will be channeled and used by the plant

*A motion was made by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan, seconded by Mr. Jordan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

- d. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$4,000,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of Phase I of the Metro Wastewater Treatment Plant Annex Asset Renewal Project (\$4,000,000)**

*A motion was made by Mr. Jordan, seconded by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

- e. A Resolution Approving Proposed Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of Route 481/298 Industrial Corridor Sewer Improvements, in and for the County of Onondaga, New York (\$6,250,000)**

Mr. Mento:

- Project is 60-70% through design process; pump station in Dewitt for an industrial area; provides additional capacity for the industrial build out near Benedict Road
- \$6.25M actual construction work which will be bid in 2021
- Confirmed Mr. Jordan’s statement that this will remove effluent flow through the neighborhood and reroute to County trunks near Carrier Circle
- Confirmed Dr. Chase’s statement that the location is parallel to Route 481

Mr. Knapp:

- Infrastructure was designed for residential area; handles industry to include Inficon, medical buildings, Byrne Dairy, and the Amazon annex being built on the other side of Route 481
- Current capacity is maxed out; provides additional capacity for growth

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

**f. A Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$6,250,000 Bonds of the County of Onondaga, New York, to Pay Costs of Improvements for the Onondaga County Sanitary District Consisting of Route 481/298 Industrial Corridor Sewer Improvements (\$6,250,000)**

*A motion was made by Dr. Chase, seconded by Mrs. Abbott-Kenan to approve this item. Passed unanimously; MOTION CARRIED*

Dr. Chase:

- Getting a lot of communication that people are being threatened if they don't sell property
- How could we help constituents that are feeling bullied with threats of eminent domain

Mr. Jordan:

- Eminent domain isn't an automatic; if home owner isn't agreeable then a court decides if action could be taken
- At this point in time I doubt a court would allow eminent domain to be exercised for a just in case; would have to be necessary for the project to continue
- Talked to many residents in the area to sway their concerns; maybe reaching out to get interest but to his knowledge there is no one definitely coming into White Pines; would need a concrete proposal to proceed
- Although he understands their concerns he feels he has done everything to minimize their concerns
- Project has been in discussion for 15 years

Ms. Kuhn:

- Could we talk to Petrovich to tell the realtors to stop threatening

Mr. Jordan:

- Agreed with Ms. Kuhn's suggestion to talk to Petrovich and be assured threats are not being made

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



MELANIE VILARDI, Deputy Clerk  
Onondaga County Legislature