

Wastewater Advisory Board

Meeting: November 22, 2010

Location: Wastewater Plant Conference Room

Members:	Chairman John Troy	Present
	Vice Chair William Starr	Present
	Commissioner Sally Horak	Present
	Commissioner Todd Morris	Present
	Commissioner Paul Lorenzo	Present
	Village of McGraw Trustee	Absent
	Village of Homer Trustee	Absent
	Harvey Davis, Plant Manager	Absent
	Tom McCall, Operator II	Present

Call the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Minutes for September 27, 2010 for approval.

Motion to approve the minutes for September 27, 2010 by Sally Horak. Seconded by Paul Lorenzo. **UNANIMOUS**

Grievances: 1st one labeled Kay Scutt. (6 ½ River Street) Mr. James Peak attended meeting to discuss situation. They have been renting set location since 1993. Kay & James decided to buy home and hired Tomma Development in 2001 to install a new toilet, vanity and new hot water heater. 2003 renovation was completed by resident's son-in-law (Gears, Gutter and Siding). Due to that a leak was generated from the toilet. That was when the sewer bill begun to increase. The location of where the water was going was not discovered until May of 2010 when Tomma Development was called back to put in all new piping including tearing up of bathroom floor to replace of drain pipes. Once this work was completed the bills have been lower and consistent. He was asked why the leak went on for so long without anything being done. James replied by stating that there was work completed within the 7 years to try to fix the problem, but it was not known the leak was going down the back wall. He was asked if there was moisture in the basement, his reply was "Yes, there was always moisture in the basement but didn't know where it was coming from." It was also asked what the average bill was for that time period and it was noted that the amount of water/sewer they were being billed for was consistent of 5 people living in the residence when there is only 2. It was noted that the grievance was denied twice before this meeting due to the average bills for set residence were 39 to 40 units for the past few years. It was stated that it was due to resident not knowing the leak was draining down the back wall. Sewer portion of the bill in question was for \$274.34. The lowest bill on record was for \$29. A credit amount of \$245.34 was recommended. This amount was obtained by deducting \$29 from \$274.34.

Motion to approve a credit of \$245.34 by Bill Starr and seconded by Paul Lorenzo.

UNANIMOUS

Second Grievance: Ed Bennedy – 76 Central Ave. (Disgruntle Tenet) Due to the water going through the system and the past bill amounts a credit of \$200.00 (20%) was recommended as a goodwill gesture. Due to that there will not be another credit issued in the future **due to this matter.**

Motion to approve a credit of \$200.00 by Sally Horak. Seconded by Paul Lorenzo.

UNANIMOUS

Third Grievance: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Allen – 31 Franklin St. A hose was turned on while resident was in the hospital. A credit of \$15.40 was recommended due to amount of past bills and the current bill in question.

Motion to approve a credit of \$15.40 by Paul Lorenzo. Second by Sally Horak. **UNANIMOUS**

Fourth Grievance: Mr. Elbert Soule – 36 East Ave. A hose was left on during a vacation period of August 30th to Sept. 4th. A credit of \$200.00 was recommended due to the water not going through the system.

Motion to approve a credit of \$200.00 by Bill Starr. Second by Todd Morris. **UNANIMOUS**

Old Business: Mr. Morgan the CFO of Marietta called/emailed asking to meet with John Troy and Paul Lorenzo. Paul contacted Harvey who recommended he call Ron Walsh. Ron thought it was a good idea due to them being in negotiations so he was unable to discuss the situation. CFO didn't act as though he knew anything but would get back to Paul with the answers. He felt there was a problem between him & Harvey Davis. Paul stated that Harvey was doing his job. There was a violation and it had to be addressed. Paul asked him why the company has not paid the fine and his response was that they did not owe it due to the completion of the stipulation. It stated that if a pretreatment plant was built the company would not have to pay the fine. The plant was completed but was not functional. The CFO was then asked what is being done with the water that is not being treated. He stated that it is being trucked up costing the company \$90,000 a month. Due to that amount that is the reason why the company would like it sent down to this facility. He was asked what is happening to the water, and he stated he didn't know but would find out. Paul informed Harvey of the information and Harvey stated that he might not be honest about the situation. Paul received an email from Mr. Morgan informing him that the water is being trucked to a company called OpTech to another location in Oneida where the water being incinerated. The following day Paul received another email from Mr. Morgan stating that he was wrong and the water is not being incinerated, it is being sent to another wastewater treatment facility to be processed. In the end the Mr. Morgan was looking to see if Paul can change the rules from 1 part per million to an average of 1 part per million. The question was brought up as to how much it would cost for them to get their pretreatment plant up and running. Would it be less then what they pay every year for having it trucked off site? It was noted that a meeting was held between the CFO, CEO, Mayor, Ron Walsh, Harvey and

Tom. Marietta was looking to have Cortland Wastewater inform them as to how to build the pretreatment plant. They were informed that Cortland Wastewater would not due that because of the liability. If the plant didn't work properly Cortland Wastewater would be held responsible. It was recommended that the company hire an Engineer to obtain the information. It has been said that GE is looking to work with Marietta in regards to helping them fix the problems with the pretreatment plant that was built. GE believes the 200 different products are what the issue is. A new study was requested to see how much toxins the Cortland Wastewater can handle. Harvey informed them that the study would take a year due to obtaining the correct information.

Employment Updates: Changes have been made at City Hall. Bryan Gazda has been released from position. Harvey now works with Lorie Crompton and Ellen Doe. Todd Morris asked what the status was on hiring someone to cover front desk. Tom informed the board that the position has been approved but no one from SCIU was willing to come in to train someone to fill the position. A member from Kelly Services has been temporary hired to fill the position until a permanent replacement has been found. This person works 8 hrs. a day, 5 days a week. There is one operator vacancy that remains, due to the other being filled in October. List from Civil Service has been obtained and letters has been sent out. They are awaiting word back so movement can be made to start the interviewing process. It was noted that Harvey was not present due to being on vacation. Tom informed board that Wayne only received his vacation time at retirement, which meant he lost over \$20,000 +/- in sick time due to City refusing to pay. The facility was not working under contract at that time, nor are they to date. Also, no one from the city notified Wayne as to when he was to take over his AFLAC Insurance. He only discovered it by contacting the company directly and was informed the account was in cancellation status. The front position to be filled will have the benefits stated in the SCIU contract and position only pays \$20,000/yr. Shelly would have been willing to stay for \$30,000/yr.

Plant Managers Report: Tom McCall presents the Plant Managers Report. The Cortland Wastewater hired a contractor (Wilkins Construction) to put in new steel chain & sprockets in the long tanks due to facility having new employees to train and winter around the corner.

- On 10-19: Tom sold his dairy herd.
- On 10-22: Ed Poole sold his dairy herd.
- On 10-25: Matt Field was hired.
- On 10-26: Cummings NE came to complete the yearly PM's on the generators. Also performed clean up on final settling tank.
- On 11-04: Kelly Services Temporary Employee Carlene K. started.
- On 11-19: County Environmental Health was here and performed the bulk petroleum storage inspection. There are some minor things that need to be updated. Labels, color codes, etc. due to new laws.
- On 11-22: Blue Heron Construction started work on the new Bell Press. They removed the heating lines & performed preliminary work. Tomorrow (11/23) they are going to take out the windows and start framing for the doorway. Next week will be 24 hr. pressing to keep inventory low. Blue Heron is pulling the old press out & putting new one in. It is going to take about 3 weeks to a month to complete the process, which cost about \$600,000 +/- . BDP is putting in the new press. It is stainless steel so it should last longer then the previous one.

It has been noted that while Harvey is on vacation Tom is covering. Harvey will be retiring the end of next year.

Loose grading – Employee's leg fell down through some loose grading in the parts area on Columbus Day. No days were missed by employee. Wilkins Construction came in and welded steel plates in so that won't happen again. An inspection was also completed through the remaining plant. Some trip hazards were found and will be taken care of.

SUNY Cortland can continue a tour through the plant with Tom when construction is complete.

Paul Lorenzo was asked why it is important that Tom and Ed sold their dairy herd? Tom responded by stating that it gives them both more time for work. If a situation came up, they are able to take care of it without any worries about things on the farm. The decision was made in part to their dedication to their jobs.

Motion to approve the Plant Report by Bill Starr. Seconded by Sally Horak. **UNANIMOUS.**

Abstract for the bills was provided but only some of the bills were available. Tom and John spoke about the Vouchers. John recommended Tom to call Lori to find out how things are completed. John was unsure if he needed to sign the Vouchers or not. If he did then he would be willing to come in.

Paul stated Susan **Feiszli** had meetings with Mr. Morgan and he lied to her. He came across as a typical corporate guy.

Motion to change the next meeting to December 20th by Todd Morris. Second by Sally Horak. **UNANIMOUS.**

Motion to Adjourn at 6:37 pm by Bill Starr. Seconded by Todd Morris. **UNANIMOUS**

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Sherry O'Brien.
