

**March 14, 2013**

**Joint Town/Village Meeting**

**6:30 PM**

Town: Supervisor S. Reiter; Councilmen A. Bax (6:45 pm), M. Marra & R. Winkley; Atty. M. Dowd; Budget Director M. Johnson; Police Chief C. Salada; 1 Press and Dep. Clerk C. Schroeder

Village: Mayor T. Collesano; Trustees D. Brochey, N. Conde, V. Eydt & B. Sutherland; and Atty. E. Jesella

Excused: Councilman E. Palmer

The first item on the Agenda was a presentation from Jeff Ritter, Administrator & Chief Operator at the WPPC who spoke about the upgrades at the Treatment Plant currently taking place there. Ritter said there is about \$3.5 million worth of upgrades.

Ritter said the Sewer Use Agreement is late in sending to the involved municipalities. There will be a rate increase of ten cents from \$3.25/1,000 gallons to \$3.35/1,000 gallons. A copy will be provided to the Village for review.

Ritter said they had to make a slight change to the Map/Plan Report for the Plant Electrical Project. It was estimated by the Engineers to be \$800,000 while in reality it is \$2.4 million. That involves the upgrades of all of the electrical distribution equipment that should last for the next 20-years.

The Annual I & I Report is delayed as they have had some flow measurement problems in the Plant. They are currently working those out with the DEC. They have a new discharge permit from the DEC that contains stronger language about high-flow discharge. One of the problems they have in the Village is a lot of infiltration and inflow. Every time there is a big rain storm the water percolates down thru the ground into the sewage pipes adding stress on the Plant. Ritter said the Village has done a great job of eliminating a lot of the I & I. System-wide (T/Porter, T/Lewiston, V/Lewiston), it is something they have to work on. The DEC is giving the Treatment Plant more authority over what happens as far as coming up with a maintenance program to eliminate some of the I & I. Fortunately, they have been pro-active in the Town and Village that this isn't going to be a problem, but the Plant does have quite a lot of water that comes thru it that doesn't come from people's houses.

In 2010, Ritter said there was a plant in Dansville that couldn't meet their permit. They had just done a major upgrade and then they ended up having to close. There was all this brand new equipment sitting around. Tim Lockhart, former Ch. Operator went and bought some of this equipment to help with the plant.

Ritter provided a slide show of some of the equipment upgrades. The first slide was a circulation pump. The second were heat exchangers used primarily to treat sludge. Ritter said they do more than treat waste water at the plant. They also generate their own electricity off the sludge. It is heated in a 375,000 gallon tank that creates gas which is burned in micro-turbines which fuels the grid. The plant gets a good electrical discount because of that.

Another piece of equipment is a digester gas compressor that helps mix the giant tank full of sludge. It is heated to body temperature.

A diffused air turbo-blower was installed in-house in 2012. It is more efficient than its predecessor. They have a new upgrade for diffused air in the plant. Air is used to help the bacteria consume what is coming into the plant. The air is needed 24 hours, seven days a week. They had some big blowers that were used that were real energy hogs. Technology has evolved and the plant had an opportunity to buy one of these turbo blowers. It also had a National Grid incentive of \$28,792. The check is on its way. This piece of equipment will pay for itself in 1.3 years.

Ritter said they started their Plant Electrical Upgrades in December of 2012. They are on schedule to complete the upgrades in 26 weeks at an approximate cost of \$1.3 million.

Councilman Bax arrived at 6:45 pm.

Ritter said a new generator pad is under construction. In the event of a power outage, they would still be able to run the waste water treatment pumps. That way no one's house would be flooded out.

A new HVAC system was installed in Sept. 2012 and should last for the next 20 years.

Another project included the replacement of the Weirs. This helps the water flow evenly out of the plant. The DEC has put the plant under consent to get these things fixed. They had holes in them and they are not supposed to. Originally, this was scheduled to be contracted out but the work is being completed in-house with the maintenance staff. The original Weirs were put in when the plant was built in the 1970's. This also should last for the next 20 years, at least.

Ritter ended the presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Trustee Conde asked what the reason was for the increase from \$700,000 to \$1.2 million. Ritter replied that it was faulty engineering. All the work was scoped out ahead of time in 2010 by CRA Engineers. By 2012, the price has gone up \$440,000.

The Supervisor asked the Finance Director to explain the bonding for the project. Johnson said they took out a bond for \$3.495 million, based on the Map, Plan & Report. The money is currently sitting in an M&T account. Johnson said the Village of Lewiston's portion of the BAN payment is \$7,124 which is due July 15, 2013. Going forward, the Village would pay its normal percentage as noted in the original contract. Johnson said the Town would be meeting with Bond Counsel to see about putting this in a permanent bond. Johnson said that out of the \$3.495 million that was borrowed, \$800,000 will need to replenish Account SS2 for the purchase of equipment from Dansville, as the Town fronted the money upfront for this purchase. Going forward Johnson said the Village should budget to pay down its share of the bond. He would provide this figure after he meets with Bond Counsel.

Jeff Ritter left at this time. Supervisor Reiter continued with the Joint meeting. He asked the Village Trustees if they had anything further to discuss with the Town.

- 1) Kiwanis Park: Mayor Collesano said it has been brought to their attention that there is a ditch at Kiwanis Park that runs along the park to Historical Square that is clogged and needs to be cleaned out. Reiter said he is aware of the ditch but was unaware that the Town took responsibility over it nor had he heard any complaints about it. He will have the Parks Supt. look at it and if necessary direct Supt. Janese to clear it of debris.
- 2) Police Contract: Collesano said they have been talking off and on about a Police Contract. The Mayor said the Village has concerns and he would like deliberations to commence for coming up with an agreement. Trustee Sutherland said he would like to do something along the lines of a Public Safety District that involves both the Police and Fire Department. He suggested forming a committee with members of each Board to look at this and come up with some recommendations to bring forth to both. Councilman Bax & Winkley and Trustees Sutherland & Eydt agreed to sit on this committee.

Sutherland said the Village has concerns there is no contract and the Village does not have the funding in place for anything past 2013.

Reiter said that before they proceed with a Public Safety District and set that structure up, they should come up with a percentage for the interim years until this District comes to reality. If they do go forward with a Public Safety District it would have to be put out to a referendum of some sort.

Reiter said the Town is willing to go back to the old Police Contract with the Village paying a percentage with the only exception that it not go back to a Police Commission. Going forward into 2014 the Village would pay a percentage of 23% of the contract.

- 3) Water Rates: Mayor Collesano said they have been going around and around for quite some time on the water rates. The Town has offered to help. Collesano said they have looked it over 3 times. The last time they looked it over with their auditor and Engineer. They looked at it in all

different ways. It turned out that there would be some residents that would save if they consolidate with the Town but 70% of the Village residents would be paying more. In going over the figures, Collesano said they could lower the rates themselves. We are going to do that. We are going to lower the rates as well as take the surcharge we were charging quarterly and dropping that as well. We don't want to stop there if there is that opportunity to benefit if the rates from the Power Authority come thru. We would still like to be a part of that. I know there were some questions from the Town Board as to how to handle that. Collesano said the Trustees felt very simply that the Town could give the Village a percentage to put in an escrow account. That money would be used specifically for the reduction of water rates. Whatever the Town is doing, we can do the same thing.

Reiter said he cannot directly give a check to the Village. He just sent a letter to the Power Authority responding to questions they had about what they refer to as the "ultimate user". The money has to go back to the ultimate user which is the resident. Once we start and get formal approval do to it, we will reimburse Village residents with a refund when they bring in their paid water bill. The Town would issue a refund on the same basis the Town residents get. We have to show that the money is going to the ultimate user. That is one solution we have come up with. We are waiting for their response.

Sutherland said the Village Trustees are the public servants of the taxpayers. If we put it in a special account that is a restricted account only for the residents, we could show both the Power Authority and Town that it is going to the residents. We could report it to you that it is going to the residents. It just makes it easier for everyone.

Reiter said they will determine the process after their discussions with the Power Authority. Until then, I'm not going to make any promises.

Johnson added that this money is an extra 3 megawatts of power that the Town negotiated above and beyond the other municipalities for being the Host Community. The Town has to account to the Power Authority for that.

4. Drainage: Collesano said the Village could use some Re-licensing money to upgrade their infrastructure as in the past. They have some sewer lines that need to be re-placed. They also have had some drainage problems on N. Fourth St. and Mohawk St. A letter was sent to the Town last year in regards to that last spring. The Town wanted more information. Collesano said they provided this information but did not hear anything further from the Town. We would like to get started this spring, if possible. There are some bad areas over there. Jeff Ritter hit on it earlier regarding the infiltration that is getting in the lines. We know where our problems are at this point in the Village. It's a win-win situation. We can take care of our problems. That's less we have to pay to the Town but yet it's opening up more capacity on the Town level for future building or whatever. I think it would behoove the Town to go along with helping us out in this respect. We would appreciate anything you could do.

Bax asked what the first step would be to set the process started. Reiter asked for a copy of the Engineer's Report and a copy of the plans for the project.

Reiter said he would sit down with the Finance Director to determine how much funding is available. The Town has a lot of commitments itself, i.e., paving and equipment purchases. He said he would work out a shared services agreement to get these projects completed, as opposed to just giving out cash

5. Academy Park: Sutherland wanted to re-evaluate what is taking place at Academy Park. He said the Village has been talking about an Open Air Pavilion and putting something in there permanently. This could be something the ice rink warming area could use. He also wanted to coordinate with the Park's other users to make sure it is in an area and size they could use as well, i.e., Kiwanis, Pub Fest, Wine Trail, graduations, reunions, etc. They made need to re-evaluate the ball field and if necessary they could move the ice rink. He said they have problems where it is now with the traffic on Center Street. He suggested the south-west corner of Academy Park. I would love to be able to put it somewhere where it can be permanent and we can put refrigeration in the ground or under a pad. Then all you would have to do us turn it on in

the winter time. We want to get a couple concepts out, look at the users and see where the best place is and gets some costs to see where we can work together on that.

Reiter said they are willing to listen. He said the Town would have to review their lease on the ice rink. He said the Town is tight on Greenway monies with the projects it has planned going forward. The Town, thru the Recreation Director will do its share of clearing up Academy Park. Reiter said the Town would take into consider whatever plans the Village has and determine how it would participate or whether it would continue with the ice rink. I feel very confident we will continue with the program but we may change some of the venues and location. We might look real hard at a lot of different sites.

Ask if they were looking at sites outside of the Village, Reiter said they could be but he would not make any promises.

Mayor Collesano said the main purpose of the Pavilion is to cover the tent that is there now. We need to be assured that rink will be there for the next several years.

Reiter said he is not sure the Town would keep the rentals up. He is leery about investing the amount of money to own the rink. He likes the rental idea and is not so happy about the ownership idea because the maintenance could be a nightmare. We own the tent. We bought the floor from the London Olympics. We have invested a lot of money on things we already own. I appreciate your thoughts about building a permanent structure but we already own all this stuff. It would be a shame not to use it. Replacing a couple of canvases on a tent would be a lot cheaper then building a whole new pavilion but Reiter said the Town would consider the concerns of the Village.

- 6) Civic Center: Sutherland asked how the Village can help with the Civic Center. Reiter said he would like to see this as a real civic or community facility. We want to see something towards the debt service. The Town of Porter has offered \$30,000. We know the Village can't afford that. We're not going to push you in that direction, but a token of some sort would be appreciated. Public and verbal support are more important right now.

The meeting ended by mutual consent at 7:50.

Transcribed and  
Respectfully submitted by:

Carole N. Schroeder  
Deputy Town Clerk

