



MARQUETTE AREA WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 2, 2023

A regular meeting of the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Advisory Board was held at 10:00 a.m., March 2, 2023, at the Marquette Area Wastewater Treatment Facility.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT Brad Johnson, Chocolay Township (Chair)
Leonard Bodenus, Marquette Township
George Patrick, City of Marquette
Mary Schlicht, City Marquette

ABSENT None

OTHERS Dan Johnston, City of Marquette
Mark O'Neill, City of Marquette
Jim Compton, City of Marquette
Craig Heisel, Donohue
Allen Williams, Donohue

AGENDA It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by G. Patrick to approve the agenda. Approved 4-0.

MINUTES It was moved by L. Bodenus, supported by M. Schlicht to approve the January 19, 2023, meeting minutes as written. Approved 4-0.

OLD BUSINESS

SOLIDS HANDLING PROJECT

M. O'Neill began with the background of the project. He stated the project was bid out almost two years ago and bids came in 1.8 million over budget. It was decided to postpone the project and rebid in the future. We took the highest bid received, increased it 15% to cover inflation and put in for the SRF hoping for a better bidding environment and infrastructure money which we did receive. Unfortunately, this bidding process only turned out one bid from Miron at 2.6 million over budget. The electrical itself came in at 1 million dollars higher than the last bid.

M. O'Neill stated there are three options moving forward. We can go forward with the project and figure out how we can finance the extra money needed, we can not go forward with the project and try to put in for the 2025 SRF, or we can try to negotiate with the contractor and cut the septage receiving station. However, we were expecting revenue from the receiving station to



Charter Township of Chocolay

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help pay for the project. Also, future SRF money is not guaranteed. M. O'Neill stated his recommendation to the City Manager and to the board is to move forward with the project and decide how you want to handle the reserve funds for the extra expense. B. Johnson and L. Bodenus stated they would have to have discussions with their township managers before making an opinion. M. O'Neill requested that it be conducted immediately because the SRF timelines require decisions to be made next week. L. Bodenus stated he understands the project has to happen regardless. The septage receiving has to be implemented regardless of whether it is now or in the future and it will be more expensive in the future. M. Schlicht stated that if there was an issue with the yearly contribution to the reserve fund then she would be more concerned about using the reserve fund, but the reserve fund is built up and available for reasons such as this. G. Patrick asked if Donohue is willing to pursue the discussion with Miron regarding negotiating the contract. C. Heisel stated that there have been preliminary discussions but no official conversations regarding deductions of the project. However, they would work through those negotiations if that were asked of them. G. Patrick asked if this project would require a rate increase. M. Schlicht stated that if reserve funds were used that would help eliminate a need for a rate increase. M. O'Neill stated the project was considered when the rate consultant conducted their recent rate study. He also stated that we could use money from the 1.8 million reserve fund but leave \$500,000 in the account balance. Instead of continuing to fund the account \$300,000 a year, as we currently do, we would fund it \$250,000 a year and use the \$50,000 a year to cover the bond payment. Then there would be no rate increase. G. Patrick asked what the contingency percentage pertained to. A. Williams stated that it is a 6% contingency fund that is standard for SRF projects to be used for any unforeseen costs that may arise during the construction process. This \$600,000 will only be spent if necessary.

M. O'Neill stated he recommends going forward with the base bid with alternatives #1 and #5, discuss it with our managers and we will call an emergency meeting next week to discuss.

BY-PASS PUMP

M. O'Neill stated \$140,000 was placed in the Capitol Improvement fund for a pump to comply with EGLE's wet weather plan. The last few years we have rented a pump. Four bids were received. Champion Charter was not compliant and Midway Rentals was not submitted properly so both were rejected. Mersino Dewatering was the lowest bid at \$81,527.50 with a Global pump and miscellaneous items estimated at \$5,000 will be needed. It is expected to be here by spring. B. Johnson motioned to approve the purchase, supported by L. Bodenus. Approved 4-0.

FINANCIAL REPORT

M. Schlicht, City of Marquette, presented the Financial Report.

M. Schlicht stated we are a third of the way through the year. Nothing is out of the ordinary. Notes are on the report for any explanations. M. O'Neill stated the operating budget is high due to the purchase of probes that was budgeted in the maintenance budget but charged to the operating budget. An adjustment will be made.



OPERATIONS REPORT

D. Johnston, City of Marquette, presented the Operations Report.

PERMIT COMPLIANCE FOR THE MONTH(S):

- **PERMIT COMPLIANCE:** No violations occurred during the month of January.

PLANT NOTES:

- Staff continues weekly COVID-19 tracing sampling for NMU from the WWTP's influent, our four major lift stations, and from the sewer leaving the Marquette Branch Prison.
- Travis Aho was training for the operator position and has decided to return to Public Works. The position is now open to the public for applicants.
- Staff repaired the drive chain for one of our Primary Clarifiers. The slack adjuster had come loose and allowed the chain to fall off the driven sprocket.
- Staff replaced the diaphragm in the #3 Primary Air Diaphragm Pump.
- The UPS for the main SCADA servers failed for an instant, causing data to be temporarily lost throughout the network. Routine service to the UPS and some new batteries cured the problem.
- Parks Department personnel removed the old office furniture that has been stored at our facility since before City Hall was remodeled. A huge thank you to all who helped!
- Supervisor ordered a spare metering pump; this pump can be used to replace the sodium hypochlorite or sodium bisulfite metering pumps, thus allowing continuous treatment in the event of a pump failure.
- Work has begun on the upgrade of our fire alarm system.
- Supervisor replaced the battery pack in the UPS that serves the fiber switch room at the WFP. This UPS supports a vital link in our SCADA Network.

INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER ACCEPTANCE ACTIVITY FOR JANUARY 2023

Source	Volume (gallons)	Total
Fabick/CAT	1,800	\$252.00
UPS	11,000	\$1,540.00
LS&I	5,500	\$770.00
Wisconsin Electric	63,500	\$2,540.00
Grand Totals	81,800	\$5,102.00

MAINTENANCE MANAGEMENT

- **Preventive Maintenance Work Orders:** staff continues to perform routine maintenance tasks. Whenever time permits, I continue to create the work orders that have not been created since we began using Lucy.

NEW BUSINESS



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NEW BUSINESS

- No new business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- M. Brumm emailed material to the board members regarding a proposed PFAS/PFOS field testing site.

BOARD COMMENT

- No board comments.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Mark O'Neill

Reviewed by:

Mark O'Neill

Director of Municipal Utilities

Prepared by:

Melissa Erkkila