



Special Public Works Meeting Notes City of Crosslake
November 19, 2020

Members Present: Doug Vierzba, Tom Swenson, Gordy Wagner (via Zoom), Dale Melberg, (Mic Tchida Absent)
Others Present: Ted Strand, Phil Martin from B & M, Dave Schrupp, John Andrews, Aaron Herzog, TJ Graumann, Marcia Volz, Dave Nevin.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 10:30 am.
2. **Approve** October 5, 2020 Minutes. **Motion** by Tom Swenson, second by Gordy Wagner to approve, all in favor.
3. **Proposal** from In Control for Lift Station Control Panel Replacements. See Notes after #5.
4. **Proposal** from Bolton & Menk for Clarifier Rehabilitation. See Notes after #5.
5. **Proposal** from Bolton & Menk for Biosolids. See Notes after #5.

BIOSOLIDS: Ted began the discussion by offering his opinion regarding all 3 proposals in an effort to prioritize the need. Biosolids was #3 on Ted's list because the City has been told the current method of disposal of Biosolids, using the invasive Phragmite reed beds at the Pine River Minnesota WWTF is still a viable method but may be discontinued in the future according to his contacts at the State. Given State regulators have no current plans to ban the use of this particular reed in the disposal beds and that this discussion has been going on for several years regarding the invasive reeds, Ted felt the need to invest in changes to the processing of biosolids was out a year or two or more. Bolton and Menk's proposal is attached at the end of this document.

CLARIFIERS: The WWTF has two clarifiers in use now. Since flow volumes are higher in the summer (vacation) season, both clarifiers are in use each day during this time. Winter (low use season) requires only 1 to be used until the spring months. **Clarifiers** are settling tanks built with mechanical means for continuous removal of solids. A clarifier is generally used to remove solid particulates or suspended solids from liquid for clarification and (or) thickening. The City's WWTF has been in operation for almost 20 years and the mechanical components of the Clarifiers are failing, such as piping components. Ted stated that he has been fixing piping issues and other metallic components to keep the units operating but given the need to keep these on line, he feels it is necessary to overhaul both units to avoid any possible downtime.

LIFT STATIONS: Ted explained that we have 7 lift stations around the city that are needed to provide pumping back to the WWTF. He stated these are of older designs and parts to repair them from such things as lightning strikes are getting harder to get. Also, all alarm messages at each lift station are only localized and not tied directly in to the control system at the WWTF. This means you have to see the alarm lights or hear the alarm horns to be aware of an issue. Ted stated we do have some good neighbors that call him to alert him of lift station issues close to their residences. The lift station that is closest to

the WWTF was upgraded when the plant was upgraded a couple of years ago, leaving 6 yet to be upgraded.

Considerable discussion (Q & A) took place regarding each upgrade. The Commission and Ted agreed on the following priority:

1. Clarifiers. Upgrade in 2021
2. Lift Stations. Plan for upgrade in 2022
3. Bio-solids. On hold pending additional formal notification from the State related to the need to move away from the current process. Continue with the current plan using the WWTF at Pine River but keep in close contact with the Pine River Plant operator.

The discussion ensued regarding funding for the projects above. Tom Swenson explained that in 2020, \$50K had been levied for upgrades to the Lift Station panels and \$150k had been levied for Biosolids; a total of \$200k that has not been spent. This could be used to start the upgrade process on the Clarifiers. The 2021 budget has another \$50k for Lift Station upgrades and \$200K for clarifiers; a total of \$250K.

A plan was discussed to shut down (drain/take off line) one of the clarifiers to allow for further investigation relative to the upgrade. This review was planned for Tuesday, December 1 and Bolton and Menk was asked to provide a more detailed proposal at the December Public Works meeting that would outline the needed Clarifier upgrades.

After considerable discussion on the items above the following motion dated 11-19-202 was made:

11-19-2020 Motion by Tom Swenson, second by Dale Melberg, approved by all to recommend that the Council shifts the \$150K budgeted in 2020 for Bio-Solids be reserved to cover costs in 2021 related to the repair of the Clarifier. The \$50K budgeted for Lift Station Control Panel Replacements along with any other unused levy monies in 2020 be placed in a reserve account to be used for Lift Station repairs as Lift Station upgrades will be moved to 2022.

Regarding the Clarifiers, the monies will be used to cover Engineering reviews and possible changes to the Clarifier building as determined by the Engineering review. Bolton and Menk will provide a revised quote at the December council meeting which will discuss the January 2021 review of one of the existing clarifiers that will be taken off line for review. B&M will target to provide a more detailed proposal of their findings on what is needed to repair both at the February 2021 Council Meeting.

(The following Motion was made at the October meeting but not enacted on. This October meeting motion should not be acted on as it was replaced with the motion dated 11-19-2020.)

~~***10-5-2020 Motion by Tom Swenson, second by Mic Tchida, approved by all to recommend that the Council shifts the \$150K budgeted in 2020 for Bio-Solids to be added to the \$50K budget for Lift Station Control Panel Replacements. A total of \$200K to be placed in a reserve account to be used in 2021 for Lift Station Control Cabinet replacements. The projected total cost to replace all 7 lift stations is \$350K.***~~

6. **Review** draft assessment costs associated with the sewer extension from City Hall to Country Road 16. Phil Martin of Bolton and Menk included a special assessment guide document for discussion. Review has been delayed to the December Public Works Meeting.
7. **New Business.** Ted explained the sewer plant recently received a large dose of salt that upset the chemical balance of the plant. It was determined that county employees at the joint maintenance facility spilled a large amount of salty water used for winter road spray down a floor drain in the facility that empties to the WWTF. Ted has had discussions with the county regarding this issue and what is needed to contain future spills.
8. Adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 12:04.