

**ORANGE COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1 ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JULY 30, 2019
2:15 P.M.**

PRESENT: Peter Tuohy, Chairman,
Katie Bonelli, Barry Cheney, John Vero

ALSO

PRESENT: Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel
Langdon Chapman, County Attorney
Joseph F. Mahoney, Senior Assistant County Attorney
Erik Denega, Commissioner, Department of Public Works
Robert Gray, Deputy Commissioner, EF&S
Anthony Griffin, Principal Sanitary Engineer, Department of Public Works
Mary Beth Bianconi, Partner/Senior Project Manager, Delaware Engineering, D.P.C.
Frank Palermo, Supervisor, Town of Woodbury
Stephen H. Welle, Mayor, Village of Harriman
Louie F. Medina, Village Trustee, Village of Harriman
Gedalye Szegedin, Administrator, Clerk, Village of Kiryas Joel/Town of Palm Tree
Michael Queenan, Mayor, Village of Woodbury
Jesus Gomez, Trustee, Village of Woodbury

Mr. Tuohy called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. All committee members were present with the exception of Ms. Tautel who was absent, Mr. Vero who arrived at 2:27 p.m. and Mr. Amo who participated via conference call.

Ms. Bianconi provided the committee with an updated timeline (see original minutes). She noted that in order to apply for state funding this was going to be declared a Type I action. They have been working diligently on developing a user cost impact. Something that was discussed at the last meeting was to list the longevity project and the intended use plan for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF). The program is competitive so the project submitted will be evaluated against criteria to determine the impact on public health, the environment and ability to pay by the rate payers based on the cost analysis. She stated that this committee will submit its report to the Physical Services Committee in September and the objective is to have the facility plan updated and it will incorporate an option for the improvements along with longevity improvement including cost. It will also include the option to collect wastewater from the district and sending it to a treatment plant on the Hudson River.

Ms. Reed asked Mr. Denega if there was a legislative request for Notice of Intent to go to the August Physical Services Committee meeting and he replied that he can do that.

Mr. Chapman clarified that the Town of Palm Tree Clerk has inquired if they hit the 85% capacity yet and have they taken the necessary steps. He stated that they hit the threshold in February and they have been taking the necessary steps.

Mr. Cheney asked what is the present capacity level.

Mr. Griffin responded that it has been up and down.

Ms. Bianconi responded that 85% is 5.92 mgd. The 85% agreement is between the Sewer District and the County. If it rains a lot they will have higher capacities. If they experience a dry period it will drop below the 85%. Either way, there is a need for capacity planning and that is what they are doing.

Ms. Bianconi continued by addressing the capacity timeline which will be determined by what decision the county makes. If the option is to stay at the Harriman Plant then the timeline may be shorter than the option to build a very long pipeline to the Hudson River. It is challenging until decisions are made as to what direction to go to give an accurate timeline. The earliest they are looking at construction is August 2021. The projects may run on a parallel track but the complexity of a capacity expansion project is going to be much bigger than the project in front of them. Once they know what direction they are going they can put together a better timeline for the elements of the project.

Mr. Tuohy stated that over the last week they visited the municipalities to discuss rate payer impact for longevity.

Ms. Bianconi summarized what took place at the meetings. She explained that they have the Orange County Sewer District No. 1 and the Moodna Communities. The rate payer impact are the users who will pay back the debt service. When they met with the municipalities they reviewed how they tax their users of the sewer system and their method of assessment and it has been very helpful.

There was discussion regarding the last few municipalities that they still needed to sit down with and meeting dates were set.

Mr. Griffin provided an update on meters and noted that the project is on hold although everything is ready to go. The Village of Monroe expressed a concern regarding the location of one of the meters. They are trying to provide options to the Mayor. Plans are before the D.E.C. so there could be a bit of a holdup.

Mr. Mahoney stated that they could always do an addendum to the RFB to extend the time of the bid if they needed.

On the motion of Ms. Bonelli, seconded by Mr. Cheney, the meeting adjourned at 2:56 p.m.