

**VILLAGE OF GRAFTON**  
**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 11, 2022**

The Board of Public Works meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Tom Krueger.

Board members present: Trustee Tom Krueger – via Zoom, Trustee Lisa Uribe-Harbeck, Trustee Dan Delorit, Les Blum and Patrick Murray

Staff present: Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Amber Thomas, Assistant Utility Director/Engineer Brecken Gries, Superintendent of Public Works Jake Arndt, Field Operations Coordinator Dan Fisher, Administrative Assistant Linda Dean, and Office Assistant Rachel Wilde

Others present: Trustee Jim Miller, Symbiont representative – Jon Butt; Ruckert Mielke representative - Dave Beyer, Connor Carynski - Ozaukee Press

Trustee Tom Krueger acknowledged there was a quorum of Village Board members present, therefore Village Board business would not be discussed.

**HEAR PERSONS REQUESTING TO BE HEARD**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 14, 2022 MEETING**

Motion by Dan Delorit seconded by Les Blum, to approve the March 14, 2022, Board of Public Works meeting minutes with the following correction on page 3:

Original text: Motion by Trustee Delorit, seconded by Trustee Harbeck to recommend the Village Board seek engineering proposals... change to: Motion by Trustee Delorit, seconded by Trustee Harbeck to recommend the Village Board *authorize the Department of Public Works* to seek engineering proposals...

Motion carried.

**WATER AND WASTEWATER**

**A. Adaptive Management Program Update**

Symbiont was hired by the Village approximately one year ago to assist in the implementation of a watershed management plan, referred to as Adaptive Management (AM), to achieve compliance with the phosphorus limits as outlined in the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Wisconsin Pollution Discharge Elimination System (WPDES) permit. The AM plan aims to reduce the total phosphorus concentration in the

Milwaukee River to below the current water quality standard of 0.075 milligrams per liter (mg/L). Initial river-monitoring showed a total phosphorus (TP) concentration of 0.084 mg/L and the result in 2021 was 0.079 mg/L. This result shows the Village is more than 50% of the way to the 0.075 mg/L standard.

Mr. Butt explained the three targeted sources of phosphorus include: farm fields, the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and sources within the village. The Village has been working with two farms covering over 700 acres to promote cover crop and no-till farming, both practices promote healthy soil. Modeling supports 330 pounds per year (lb/yr) of TP reduction which is a 65% improvement over the previous year's 300 lb/yr reduction.

Mr. Blum asked if additional reductions could be expected and Mr. Butt stated the limit for these two farms using these two practices has been reached, but other practices could still be introduced.

The next step is to increase the acreage and the Village has a third farmer on board for 2022. WWTP improvements approved at last month's Board of Public Works meeting will also move the Village toward the goal.

Mr. Blum inquired if the improvements Saukville will be putting in place will help the Village of Grafton and Mr. Butt explained that upstream efforts will help numbers downstream. Mr. Blum also inquired if special farm equipment was required for these practices. Mr. Butt stated that special equipment is required and Ozaukee County has equipment that farmers can rent. Larger farms typically purchase their own equipment.

Mr. Butt stated that farmers like the fact they use less diesel and they are on the field less so there is less soil compaction. This program provides incentive to get farmers started with these practices, in hopes that they see the benefits and continue the practices without continued incentives from the Village.

Trustee Krueger inquired if the \$80,000 the Village has budgeted for this year is going to be an on-going expense and/or if it will increase. Mr. Butt explained it depends on the practices that are promoted. A practice such as a cover crop would require additional costs as acreage grows but a practice such as installing buffer grasses would be a one-time expense.

Trustee Krueger also inquired if the AM program will need to go on forever to ensure compliance. Mr. Butt stated that everyone is still learning how this will look long-term and no other WI communities have yet succeeded in their AM goal. The intent is that over time the farmers will be self-sufficient. The goal of the program is to help the farmers get started with these practices.

#### B. Award SCADA Radio Telemetry Network Upgrade Project

Assistant Utility Director/Engineer Brecken Gries explained the current system is about 20 years old. Recently, the signal was lost for a full 24 hours and staff needed to run

from station to station all day/night to ensure water towers were properly filling and lift stations were operating adequately. The signal loss gets worse as leaf cover increases and data shows it drops out more in the evenings/weekends, equating to more over time for staff.

This project will include a new antenna at the WWTP and putting a new repeater antenna on tower one. The repeater antenna at tower two would no longer be used. Also required will be an assignment of a different radio frequency. The system currently uses the free 900 Mega Hertz (MHz), 1 Watt channel and a 450 MHz, 5 Watt channel is recommended. Phase one of the project is to conduct a network design study and radio site surveys. Phase two will look at the specific equipment required.

Mr. Blum inquired about on-going fees for a license from the FCC for this 450 MHz channel. Mr. Beyer expects the fee to be approximately \$6000 for a five-year license, plus an upfront fee for set up.

Field Operations Coordinator Dan Fisher assured Trustee Krueger that the outages are becoming more problematic each year and that a new system would be a vast improvement. Mr. Beyer stated the new frequency would not be as line-of-site dependent as the current system. Currently, the weak link in the system is the connection between tower One and the WWTP. He also stated that three other communities are using this type of new system with great increase to reliability.

Trustee Krueger asked about the resell value of the current system. Mr. Beyer stated it is still a current product and there may be an aftermarket opportunity.

Trustee Harbeck noted the quote was past the 30-day price guarantee. Mr. Beyer indicated that is not an issue. Trustee Harbeck also inquired about the timing of the project. Mr. Beyer stated they need to let the trees leaf-out and hope to install in late summer or early fall.

Motion by Trustee Harbeck, seconded by Mr. Patrick Murray to recommend the Village Board approve the radio network design study and site surveys by TCIC for \$14,600.00, and Frequency Coordination and FCC Licenses by TCIC for \$6210.00 as part of the WWTF SCADA Radio Telemetry Network Upgrade Project. Motion carried.

#### C. Purchase Replacement Equipment – Shady Hollow Lift Station

Coordinator Fisher reported there is \$50,000 in the budget this year to replace two pumps at this lift station. The pumps are serviced monthly by Village staff and annually by the manufacturer who then provides a condition reports on all pumps. The latest report indicates the repair costs are 50% of replacement pump costs. Replacement pumps would be smaller and more efficient than current pumps and would have a flush valve. The wet well is controlled by a pressure transducer which is also showing aging and it makes sense to replace at the same time.

Mr. Murray asked how you replace both pumps at one station and Coordinator Fisher stated it would be done one pump at a time. Trustee Krueger noted that Xylem seems to be a preferred vendor and other Village Lift Stations use these pumps. He then inquired if they are still a sole-source provider and Coordinator Fisher indicated they are and they have a patent on the flush valve.

Mr. Blum inquired if it was possible to replace one of the pumps and use the old pump as parts for the second pump. Coordinator Fisher stated this has been done in the past but has not worked out well. He also indicated that Xylem will size the pumps, do the install, and perform annual maintenance, while Village staff will continue to perform monthly maintenance.

Motion by Mr. Blum, seconded by Trustee Delorit, to recommend the Village Board authorize the purchase and installation of two new flygt pumps, two flush valves and one transducer in the amount of \$45,583.40. Motion carried.

#### D. Utility Major Projects Update

Assistant Director Gries presented the major Utility projects:

- WWTP Chemical Feed Systems Design Upgrade Project was awarded and will kick off on April 19, 2022
- Bridge Street LS Tributary Area I/I Construction. MSA should have report completed this month.
- WWTP Headworks Upgrade Project Punch List is now at 11 items. Concern was expressed by several board members regarding project expenses. Director of Public Works/Village Engineer Amber Thomas noted that expenses have not yet been finalized but will be explained further as they are finalized.
- WWTP MCC Replacement Design Services Project is out for bid.
- Green Bay Road Lift Station Tributary Area Rehab work is ongoing and should be completed soon. Trustee Harbeck inquired if the Visi-Sewer trucks out on 17th Avenue were there because of a problem and Assistant Utility Director Gries indicated they were there grouting as planned.
- WISDOT I-43 Construction from Milwaukee County to STH60. There continues to be an increase in bulk water requests. No other work in our area yet.

#### E. Report of Benchmark Measurements-Water and Wastewater

Coordinator Fisher reported staff made one final spring push for water meter installs due to poor weather this month but that will be the end of meter change outs for a while due to lack of inventory. The focus this month will be jetting and hydrant flushing will take place in the first two to three weeks of May.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### A. Award Project 22-02: Sidewalk Replacement Project

Director Thomas reported that the budget for 2022 is \$50,000 and includes the neighborhood north of Falls Road and east of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The neighborhood is older and has many large trees. The Village received four bids, which was a record. The

winning bid was from Beardsley Concrete for \$46,856. This is a good price but will not leave much room for other activities such as saw cutting.

Motion by Mr. Blum, seconded by Mr. Murray to recommend the Village Board award contract 22-02 / 2022 Sidewalk Replacement to Beardsley Concrete, LLC, Racine, WI for a contract amount of \$46,856.00. Motion carried.

#### B. Public Works Major Projects Update

Director Thomas presented the major Public Works projects:

- Sidewalk Replacement Program (22-02). The plan is to begin this work in May.
- Street/Utility reconstruction Program (22-01). The contractor brought in equipment today but they are having trouble getting some of the materials. Trustee Krueger reminded Director Thomas about the request for the breakdown between the Utility and Street portions of this project.
- STH60 & 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Intersection Improvements (22-03). Project goal is to improve the flow of traffic and 90% of funding is from WISDOT. The project is currently out for bid.
- Roadway Sealant Project (22-04). This is not yet out for bid.
- River Bend Meadows Subdivision. The developer is planning to start Phase 3 in early May.
- Shady Hollow Subdivision. Phase 5 plans are under review, no timeframe on construction yet.
- Stonewall Farms Interceptor Sewer. The developer is five weeks into the project, should be completed in about another three weeks.
- Stonewall Farms Subdivision. Trustee Harbeck inquired if the plans been reviewed and Director Thomas stated that plans were reviewed and conditional approval was given. Work is anticipated to begin in early May.

#### C. Purchase Asphalt Hot Box

Superintendent of Public Works Jake Arndt indicated that two quotes were received for a new hot box. Trustee Harbeck asked what would become of the current hot box. Superintendent Arndt explained the current hot box is jointly owned with Port Washington. Director Thomas mentioned that it had been previously discussed with Port Washington and they will discuss further if Port Washington wants to buy out the Village's half of the old equipment.

Motion by Trustee Delorit, seconded by Mr. Blum to recommend the Village Board authorize the purchase of a new Asphalt Hot Box from Midwest Paving Equipment, Inc, Glen Ellyn, IL in the amount of \$23,787. Motion carried.

#### D. Report of Benchmark Measurements-Public Works

Superintendent Arndt reported that crack sealing materials have arrived and work will be performed as weather permits. Staff was able to get the street sweeper out early this year, so good progress has already been made. The salt barn has been filled to capacity for next year. Stump grinding was completed last week and brush collection also began last week.

## **DIRECTORS REPORT**

- A. Update Lime Kiln/West Plume Groundwater Monitoring  
Director Thomas had a productive virtual meeting with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last month that included a discussion about priorities. The DNR agreed to annual sampling starting this year and TRC Environmental was able to gain ground in proving why vapor intrusion east of the river not hydrologically possible. Overall, the DNR was understanding of the Village's budget and the scope of work that can reasonably be completed.
- B. Update on new DPW Crewperson position  
The position was posted for three weeks and four interviews were conducted last week. Unfortunately, no one candidate appeared to be the right fit for the position. A total of 16 candidates applied so a second round of interviews will be conducted.
- C. Update on new Utility Operators  
Chris Husting and Erik Olsen have started at the Water Utility.
- D. DNR Urban Forestry Grant Received  
This grant was received for the second year in a row. It is a 50/50 match grant for up to \$25,000. A meeting was held with the DNR to understand the specifics of the grant.
- E. WISDOT Planning for STH60 from First Avenue to 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Planning for this work has begun but it will be five to seven years before construction will begin. The Village will need to work through what work the DOT will cover and what the Village's responsibilities will be. The DOT is also looking at the stretch from Keup Road to Five Corners and may look to do all of that work at the same time. Director Thomas discussed with the DOT the Village's need to do utility expansion work in that area.

Trustee Harbeck inquired on the status of the new crosswalk near Centennial Park. Director Thomas stated that a work order has been created to insure this work will be completed once weather permits.

## **ADJOURN**

Motion by Trustee Delorit seconded by Mr. Murray, to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried.