

April 23, 2019

VILLAGE OF SULLIVAN
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President Montague called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00pm on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 at the Village Hall, 500 Madison Avenue. The Public Hearing is being held in compliance with Wisconsin Open Meetings Law. Board members present: Sean Kevin, Tim Horton, Gary Kernodle, Randy McHugh and Roberta Montague.

The purpose of the Public Hearing is to hear comments or questions from the Public concerning the Sewer Consolidation Project.

The village engineer Ben Heidemann gave a presentation to the village residents about the sewer consolidation project and the rate impact the project will have on the residents.

View the attached document for a summary of questions and answers provided by Town and Country Engineering.

A McHugh/Kernodle motion carried on a voice vote to close the public hearing at 7:19pm.

Heather Rupnow
Clerk/Treasurer
Posted: 05/07/2019

MEMORANDUM

Date: May 3, 2019

From: Ben Heidemann, P.E.
Vice President
Town and Country Engineering

Subject: Town of Sullivan Sanitary District No. 1 and Village of Sullivan Public Hearing Summary

Public hearings for the joint Town of Sullivan Sanitary District No. 1 and Village of Sullivan facilities planning effort were held on April 24, 2019 and April 23, 2019, respectively. Attached to this memo are copies of the presentations presented for each community and sign in sheets from each of the public hearings. A summary of questions and discussion are summarized below. Individual questions and answers have not been summarized due to the extensive nature of the question and answer period. Common groups of questions have been outlined below with a summary of the responses included below.

What are the considerations of current and changing regulations in the Facilities Plan?

The Facilities Plan treatment alternatives were developed based upon the desired wastewater treatment capacities developed by each individual community and effluent limits information supplied by the Wisconsin DNR based upon the proposed capacities. The limit request to the DNR prepared revised limits based upon today's code requirements. One of the major differences between the limit calculations for the Village's and the District's discharge location is phosphorus. At the Village's discharge location the proposed phosphorus limits include both water quality based effluent limits and limits from the Rock River TMDL, resulting in a very stringent limit of 0.075 ppm. At the District's discharge location the proposed phosphorus limits included technology based effluent limits and limits from the TMDL, resulting in a less stringent limit of 1.0 mg/L. The more stringent limits at the Village's discharge location will result in a substantial increase in the cost required to comply with these limits. As a result of this difference, the District's WWTP site and discharge location were used for all joint treatment considerations. If phosphorus regulations change, the new plant will be better able to accommodate more stringent regulations.

The Facilities Plan does not specifically address changing regulations in the future, primarily because we are unable to determine what regulatory changes will occur in the future, when those changes will occur, and how stringent new regulations will be. In all alternatives the ability for the alternatives to adjust to changing regulations is considered. Further, during design flexibility will be incorporated into all new treatment processes to attempt to address anticipated changes to regulations.

How can a resident get more information and provide input related to the upcoming project?

The Facilities Plan is currently available for review at both the District and Village office. The DNR will also be holding a public comment period after they have finished their review. Digital copies of the final Facilities Plan can always be requested from either the District or Village office.

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Public is always welcome to attend both the District and Village monthly meetings to get updated on current information related to the WWTP projects. The District's board meeting is held the second Monday of each month and the Village's board meeting is held the first Tuesday of each month.

It is anticipated that additional public information sessions will also be held as the project develops. The next anticipated public information session will be shortly after receiving a response from the USDA Rural Development on the grant application.

How were the joint treatment cost allocations developed?

Cost allocation to each community was based upon sharing the costs associated with the capital costs as well as Operations and Maintenance (O&M) and Replacement Fund costs. The capital cost were allocated based upon those costs that were specific to either community and those costs shared by each community. The treatment plant costs shared by the communities were allocated based upon flow, peak flow, BOD, TSS, nitrogen and phosphorus, then assigned to each community based upon their respective annual average capacity for flow, BOD, TSS, nitrogen, and phosphorus and the peak hour flow capacity from each community. Any changes to each communities capacities in the future O&M and Replacement Fund costs were assigned to each community based upon current flow, BOD, TSS, nitrogen, and phosphorus contributions. O&M and Replacement Fund costs are anticipated to be adjusted annually to reflect actual wastewater contribution from each community.

Each communities design capacities were developed in a similar fashion, evaluating current facility loadings for sustained and long term impacts, considering growth based upon state developed population figures, individual communities comprehensive plans, and governing body's opinions and plans.

What are the impacts of grants on the project?

Grants will be a critical portion of the project for both communities in order to keep user rates as low as possible. The two primary grant/loan programs that are available and will be considered are the Water and Waste Disposal program from USDA Rural Development and the Clean Water Fund program from the Wisconsin DNR. Both USDA and DNR have expressed support for regionalization and consider regionalization a priority for their funding programs.

We are currently working to submit a loan and grant application to USDA Rural Development, which should be completed in May. A Clean Water Fund application will also be submitted prior to the deadline of September 30, 2020.

Other smaller grant funds may be available and will be pursued in conjunction with the two major loan applications listed above.

What are the considerations for bio-solids in the Facilities Plan?

The DNR requires wastewater facilities to provide either 180 days of bio-solids storage or have a contract for year round disposal of bio-solids. The Facilities Plan considered three different alternatives for bio-solids treatment and disposal; year round contract hauling/disposal, 180 day storage and seasonal liquid disposal, and 180 day storage of

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thickened bio-solids and seasonal liquid disposal. Based upon the estimated capital and operational costs it was determined that year round contract hauling/disposal was the most cost effective means of bio-solids treatment and disposal. This cost effectiveness analysis is changed when grant money offsets the capital cost of construction. Based upon additional analysis it was recommended that 180 day storage and seasonal liquid disposal be pursued if grant funds exceed 20% – 30%.

How are user rates established for the communities?

The user rate estimate is calculated by considering existing debt, new debt from the allocated project capital cost, O&M and replacement fund costs for the new WWTP and O&M costs required to maintain the District's collection system and distributing those costs among the existing users based upon the current user and rate structure. In addition, maintaining operating cash, grant implications, and debt coverage were also considered. Only costs associated with the District or Village are considered in their respective rate estimates.

Each communities' user rate system is outlined in their ordinances and establishes residential equivalency based upon a customer's type of usage. Neither community has metered water service, which means that rates are based solely on the type of user and the residential equivalent rate.

Can we consider installation of private septic systems instead of upgrading our WWTP?

Installation of private septic systems in lieu of maintaining the existing wastewater facilities is infeasible. The Town of Sullivan Sanitary District was formed to address water quality issues associated with failing private septic systems; likely due to poor soil conditions and close proximity to private wells and homes. All of those conditions would still exist. Further, it would be infeasible to provide a case that the entire Town of Sullivan Sanitary District No. 1 could be serviced with private septic systems without creating a negative environmental impact.

What are the different roles and stakeholders in this process?

Projects of this magnitude have a variety of stakeholders with varying responsibilities. The following is a summary of major project stakeholders and their roles in this project:

- *Local Government: Each of the communities' sewerage systems are overseen by a local governing authority; the Town of Sullivan Sanitary District No. 1 board and the Village of Sullivan Board of Trustees. Each of these entities is made up of individuals from their respective communities and is tasked with the financial and governance decision making for the communities. The Town of Sullivan Sanitary District No. 1 board is made up of three individuals appointed by the Town of Sullivan Board. The Village of Sullivan Board of Trustees is made up of five elected individuals. Each community has staff that manage the day to day operations of their wastewater collection and treatment facilities.*
- *Regulators: The Wisconsin DNR has regulatory authority over each of the communities' wastewater facilities via their WPDES permits. The WPDES permit provide restrictions and requirements related to the treatment and discharges from each facility.*
- *Funding Agencies: Funding agencies will provide and administer loan and grant funds for the project. In addition to these requirements, the funding agencies will*

provide a level of technical oversight to ensure funding is properly administered and project scopes are appropriate. USDA Rural Development and the Wisconsin DNR Clean Water Fund are anticipated funding agencies for the project.

- *Professional Engineer: Both the DNR and funding agencies require a professional engineer design and certify plans for the facility improvements and provide oversight during construction. Town and Country Engineering will serve as the professional engineer for this project as well as manage the grant and loan administration.*
- *General Contractor: The state of Wisconsin and the funding agencies require that all municipal projects of a certain size be publicly bid. After the design is completed the project will be made available to contractors throughout the State and Midwest to obtain sealed bids. Award of the construction project will be made to the lowest responsible bidder, who will then construct the facilities.*

How will the pumping and pipeline work to convey wastewater to the District?

In the recommended approach outlined in the Facilities Plan the Village will need to convey their wastewater approximately 23,000 feet from the Village's existing wastewater plant to the District's existing wastewater plant site. This will be accomplished by installing new pumping facilities at the Village's existing wastewater plant site (the existing wastewater plant will be demolished following completion of the project) and installing a 6" diameter plastic (PVC and HDPE) pipeline buried 7 feet below grade (below frost zone) to the District's site. The pipeline route is currently anticipated to follow County Highway F. Planning will include evaluation of environmental impact, wetland crossings, and road right of way impacts, among other things. Facilities will include renovation of existing tankage at the Village's site to act as reserve storage, redundant pumps, automatic standby power, and regular pipeline cleaning. Because the pipeline will operate at higher pressures than typical private low pressure sewer systems, individuals along the pipeline route will not be required to, nor recommended to connect to the municipal system.

Has the Village considered maintaining their own WWTP?

Both the Village and the District considered the cost of maintaining their own respective WWTPs individually. In both cases it was found to be more cost effective to join together at the District's wastewater site. The Village completed this evaluation separately and found a 17% present worth benefit through joint treatment. The Sanitary District completed this evaluation as a part of this Facilities Plan and found a 30% present worth benefit through joint treatment.

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