

Date: August 21, 2023

Subject: Engineering Committee Meeting
Minutes **Thursday, August 17, 2023**

To: Board of Directors

From: Engineering Committee and **AGS**
Arthur G. Simonian, Executive Director

Engineering Committee
August 17, 2023 Meeting Minutes

The Engineering Committee met Thursday, August 17, 2023 at the District Offices, 245 Main Street, Cromwell, Connecticut.

Executive Director, Arthur Simonian called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Present was Chairman, John Dunham and Committee Members – David Bauer, Don Naples and Liam Mitchell. Also, present were Executive Director – Arthur Simonian and District Engineer – Michelle Ryan and Maintenance Manager – Bill Adkins. Committee Member Bonnie Anderson was not present. There was a quorum.

The following is a summary of the August 17th Engineering Meeting:

- 1) **Clarifier No. 1 Center Column** – Review and discuss major repairs needed, proposal and bid waiver.

Executive Director, Art Simonian stated there are (6) clarifiers; (2) of the clarifiers are fairly new and (4) are from the 1980's. Center column is deteriorated and requires a more substantial repair than the other three. Maintenance Manager, Bill Adkins further explained the current state of the column using pictures provided to the committee members prior to the meeting.

A total of (3) quotes were provided by GMH Associates supporting the various levels of work involved to repair the center column. Capital budget has \$85,000 remaining for the main gear drive and there is some money in the CNR Reserve to cover the additional cost. The original plan was to repair at same cost as before, however this was prior to knowing the actual condition of the column.

Chairman, John Dunham requested a spreadsheet listing items and work completed and items and work that may need to be completed with a timetable. This spreadsheet will be prepared for the next Engineering Committee meeting by Maintenance and Engineering.

MOTION: The Engineering Committee approves a bid waiver to purchase and install a center column for Clarifier No. 1 from GMH Associates of America of Trenton, NJ in the amount not to exceed \$428,288.03 and would be in the best interest of the District and refers this motion to the Board of Directors for approval.

Moved: Don Naples; Seconded: Liam Mitchell; Approved: Unanimously

2) Odor Control CupriDyne Site Misting System – Review and discuss Phase II.

Executive Director, Art Simonian explained that we are looking into alternatives for odor control and presenting the misting system as an option to consider; no decisions and/or motions to approve are necessary at this time. The new misting system is designed to break down the odors and neutralize them.

We intend to have the system installed and tested on a trial basis. A website information page was shown to the Committee members.

Cost is approximately \$30,000 if we installed the misting system on the perimeter of the fence with a tank and pumping system. The annual supply cost, depending on how much chemical is used and how often, the chemical totes are \$2,100 each. It is estimated that \$15,000-\$20,000 would be spent on chemicals annually to support this system.

3) Flow Meter Investigation – Review and discuss next phase comparison of temporary meters to Town flows.

ADS provided information on temporary monitoring locations, rainfall events and flow data on the trunk line in the area of the Blue Lobster on the Berlin Turnpike. A diagram of the flow data and correlation with sewer design were shown to demonstrate the back pressure at high flow times.

The tables presented for current year show excellent correlation between town meter flows and our plant flows within 1.4% on average. The District Engineer will work with the Executive Director to show data adjustments based on NB High and Berlin's new meter applied for years 2021 and 2022.

4) Meraki Network Switches – Review and discuss.

Meraki is the name of the company that we are purchasing the new network switches from and they were recently acquired by CISCO who is the company we purchased our existing switches from. The CISCO network switches are beyond their useful life and no longer support the updates that are required for security purposes. The conversion will be done in phases and will take place over a long weekend. It was noted that this project is not in the budget for fiscal year 23-24, so it was recommended to put this in the capital program and incorporate future phases into next years' project plan. The Executive Director indicated a purchase was secured for initial phase in the Administration area to insure success of the network switches in future phases. The Committee members agreed to run our existing system to the end of the service agreement.

No further action is needed at this time.

5) QBS-RFQ Qualifications Review – Interview dates and questions; Fee Proposal format.

Executive Director, Art Simonian reviewed the "take-home" question that was provided to the on-call engineering firms being interviewed next week. It was specified that this question is really isolated to the firms' experience with other waste water treatment facilities. He also reviewed the interview format and said an addendum would be prepared and emailed to all firms showing that further time has been allocated towards questions and less for presentation, one (1) additional question was added and two (2) were combined into one.

6) Related Business and Staff Updates

Executive Director, Art Simonian mentioned that an energy supply company approached us and presented a program for clean energy that municipalities can participate in. This program has the potential to generate approximately \$200,000 annually in revenues with offsite clean energy source. It was decided this opportunity would be looked into further after our attorney, Ed Lynch has reviewed the details of this program.

Adjournment:

Mr. Mitchell moved, no second necessary, and the committee approved unanimously to adjourn at 7:05 PM.

C: Board Members not on the Engineering Committee