

SPECIAL BOARD MEETING – JUNE 7, 2012

SEWER PROJECT

The Special Board meeting of the Town Board of St. Armand was held on the above date at the Town Hall, Bloomingdale, NY.

**PRESENT:** Supervisor Joyce W. Morency, Councilmen Samuel A. Grimone, Charles Whitson, Jr., Earl J. Dakin, Jr. and Donald Amell. Stanley Ingison, Sewer Department.

**EXCUSED:** Town Clerk Cynthia A. Woodson. Meeting was held in Supervisor's office as Town Court was using the conference room, and Clerk was in her office available for bidders who came to hand out plans and manuals.

**GUESTS:** Michael Mascarenas and Matt McNamara from Essex County, and Todd C. Hodgson from AES.

Supervisor Morency called the Special Board meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

The Special Board meeting was posted at the Town Hall. A waiver of written notice was signed by all Town board members.

This meeting was recorded and typed by the Town Clerk.

DEC CONSENT LETTER DATED MAY 22, 2012

**MORENCY:** The meeting is being held to discuss the letter from D.E.C. dated May 22, 2012. We discussed issues relating to the D.E.C. letter. Charlie Whitson and Stan Ingison discussed the problems at the lagoons, new problems discovered. Biolak installation, blowers and motors and oxygen problem, sludge measurements – depth and oxygen levels, etc. Charlie and Stan with help from Roger Oliver measures sludge and Charlie prepared a diagram showing 27 areas.

**SLUDGE:**

**WHITSON:** Stan and I installed Biolak system and new diffusers, and we mapped both lagoons and measured the depth of solids. The change in the color of water is now darker as the oxygen is down. The diffuser was replaced two to three weeks ago. The single phase of the blower and motor are undersized, a 220 phase is needed, and the original was not large enough.

**MORENCY:** that sludge is depleting the oxygen.

**HODGSON:** the blowers are not big enough, you have single phase down there.

**INGISON:** the bubblers are from the fountain that hasn't worked in years; they are working now, because the oxygen level hasn't change much; it actually blowing so much air through them now its heavy bubbles. So by working on the motor it is smoother, finer bubbles. Some of the problem is the pulley which needs to be replaced.

**AMELL:** what is the ideal oxygen level?

**HODGSON:** normally at two.

**MORENCY:** Stan, tell them about the problems in the lagoons.

**INGISON:** In lagoon #2, there are two holes in the lining where the sewer flows through and some solids are washing out to the river. Lagoon #1 a section of the lining is floating on top of the water.

**MORENCY:** this morning the sewer pump station next to the pump house was full and near over flowing. Village of Saranac Lake came down to pumped out I think it was one or two loads. The Saranac Lake driver is a qualified certified close space operator. He helped pull out pump and replace rebuilt pump.

**INGISON:** I think it was about four or five loads.

**WHITSON:** we can all stop there to look at the lagoons when we are done.

**D.E.C.**

**MORENCY:** we need to make them aware of our issues

**HODGSON:** DEC needs to be aware of the liner because some of what they are reporting is not reality. They need to be aware that the Town is trying.

**MORENCY:** and this was just discovered with the lining.

HODGSON: of course, and it is not the Town's fault, the lining not living up to the designs life of the lining. It will be important to put that information in the funding issue.

MORENCY: they wanted 8 or 10 years of our annual report and budget on the sewer. It's crazy, why do they need all this information.

HODGSON: they want from 2005.

MORENCY: we can tell them what we have done with the sewer plant, Biolak, the blowers, and motors, etc.

DAKIN: you also changed the power down there. It was 100 amp and we changed it to 200 amps. We also put in new motors that are twice the size of the old ones.

MASCARENAS: what they are asking you is to pay \$4,000.

MORENCY: \$6,000

MASCARENAS: they are giving you \$6,000 extra penalty, but they are asking you to pay \$4,000 by...

GRIMONE: \$4,000 of the original and they also hope...

MASCARENAS: right, if you don't comply with the rest of it, and they will charge you the additional \$3,000.

GRIMONE: let's just say we can't get funding right away, what would it cost to replace the liners? Someone to come in to empty it and replace the liners.

MORENCY: are we still going to have two lagoons in the future project?

HODGSON: yes, and typically the State (DEC) grandfathers the lagoons system. The letter sent to them to find some determination on that so that when the Town moved forward will they are grandfathered in, because they haven't reply, I can't say 100% for sure if it will be. The liners are made much better today than when first put in and a new liner is \$300,000.

MASCARENAS: I started the conversation with Jason (Denno) about funding. The SWSRF grant will not work as it is not eligible as it is not water. If we get principal forgiveness for \$2 million dollars, DEC is the one fining us and putting this debt on your Town. If we can get the \$2 million and the water quality money I think the project will work, and we are shoveling ready. DEC is asking us to move forward on a plan that has not been approved by them; we need them to say it is approved or not approved.

WHITSON: like are you going to say okay before we invest all this time and money, then later get told no.

HODGSON: we are following some of their recommendations and until they approve it, we need to hear from EFC.

MORENCY: we did what we could in the last six months.

MASCARENAS: we need to get that fine reduced.

HODGSON: we know we need to do capital improvements.

MASCARENAS: to go forward with plans and specifications is very premature; prior to having a full cost of funding. If we need to we can do a small addendum page of preliminary engineering, but we won't know that until DEC tell us that they don't agree with the plans.

MORENCY: what did you say about the pumping station?

HODGSON: we did look at it and from our standpoint there are some deficiencies and put forth some costs to fix it. The problem is they are asking for plans and specifications, when they haven't approved the documents that have been submitted. I am a little nervous of having the Town move forward with their pump station. This is how the situation would go, the Town puts out a BAN to make the improvements, such as \$20,000 for the pump station, \$100,000 - \$200,000 for the River Road station, and those loans have interests. That takes it further in debt financially to continue the improvements that need to be done in the overall process of the project.

MASCARENAS: that cost will on the users; you might as well do as much as you can to make some improvements.

HODGSON: we need financing available.

MASCARENAS: we need principal forgiveness, and interest free financing.

MCNAMERA: the Comptroller is only going to allow you to go so high to raise rates on your users. If you have to raise rates, you want it to be for the advantage of making improvements.

MORENCY: what is holding Jason up with the \$2 million?

MCNAMERA: I think Jason would have that \$2 million if we had the other \$2 million. They want to know that the project is going to be fully covered.

MASCARENAS: if the Town could get a funding package, a reasonable fund for user fees, then they will look at you and say they are ready, they are serious.

MASCARENAS: the bottom line is that the users in this District are not about to pay for \$4 million dollars, the State wouldn't even allow it.

MORENCY: we will have to hire a lawyer before meeting with DEC.

END OF MEETING

Supervisor Morency adjourned the meeting at 12:30 a.m.

I, Joyce W. Morency, Supervisor, for the Town of St. Armand, do hereby certify that the above is a true and correct transcript of the Special Board meeting minutes held on the above referenced date.

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Joyce W. Morency  
St. Armand Supervisor