

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MAY 20, 2008

A Special Meeting of the Warrensburg Town Hall was held on May 20, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. at the Albert Emerson Town Hall with the following members present:

PRESENT:	Supervisor	Kevin B. Geraghty
	Councilman	John Alexander
	Councilman	Joseph Barlow
	Councilman	Austin Markey
	Councilman	Dean Ackley

OTHERS PRESENT: Donna Combs, Town Clerk; Richard Galusha, Water/Sewer Superintendent; Dexter Duell; Patty Monahan, Bookkeeper and Chris Round, Chazen.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Supervisor Geraghty introduced Chris Round of Chazen Companies. He said the first order of business would be to talk about the wastewater treatment plant, effluent disinfection.

Chris Round said that back in June of '06 the Governor issued a letter to DEC stating all wastewater treatment plants need to be, that they have had (tape inaudible) treatment that are contributed close to the Hudson River. He said their plant is in that location and the goal is a swimmable Hudson under Pataki. He said back in October they issued a report to DEC outlining two different options, one being chlorination and one being ultraviolet treatment. Mr. Round said DEC had issued a comment back in January of '08 with very minor comments, not difficult to address but he said what they need from the Town is to pick one. He said DEC wants to know is it ultraviolet or chlorination because the design process and the approval process is just a little bit different. Mr. Round said they've talked to folks here and most of the feedback has been to look at ultraviolet. He said the report the Board had in front of them that was issued back in October outlining the costs and the options. Mr. Round said they are very similar in cost.

Supervisor Geraghty said he thought what they talked about was that the operational cost of the ultraviolet was cheaper than the chlorine. He said they also were concerned if they had too much chlorine going in the river and if they had a fish killed they'd be on the receiving end of another problem with DEC.

Supervisor Geraghty said he thought they were already set on...

Chris Round said UV. He said to expedite that process they gauged the conversations with a vendor that is one of the largest suppliers of UV treatment systems. He said what they needed in order to specify a treatment system for the Town was some sampling in respect to suspended solids. The concern was the affluent might be of little quality and the UV treatment wouldn't provide effective treatment consistent with DEC

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MAY 20, 2008

standards. Mr. Round said they did three rounds of sampling and said at the end of the day it is a feasible alternative. He said where they are right now is they need to issue a letter back to DEC saying yes we are choosing UV, and we've... He said then once they took the engineers report then we need to proceed with designing the system. Mr. Round said they understand that there is no money here at the Town to do that design so what they need to do is engaged in conversation with DEC officials. He said there's also somebody at EFC under the Clean Funding Initiative that says this is a mandate that has been brought by the State and ask them how they are to fund this program. He said it's around \$400,000.00. He said the construction according to DEC needs to be completed by May of 2009. Mr. Round said the State had said back in 2006 that the state provides funding under the Environmental Protection Fund Program. He said they would apply for the Town under the program to get the money to do that. Mr. Round said it doesn't mean that the Town would be funding and that there's a lag time between application and the announcement of award. He said what they need to do is press the DEC about funding for it and then they need to press them on schedule because they don't want to be hit with a fine program for something that they're asking us to do and not fund it.

Mr. Round said the State just issued a report updated March 2008 that they talked about the wastewater infrastructure needs. He said there's 36 billion dollars of need in New York State and almost 16 billion dollars, about a third of that, is related to upgrading existing wastewater treatments. He said this is not new facilities. Mr. Round said the message is there's huge demand for dollars. He said there's not enough dollars to go around and they're all feeling that pinch.

Mr. Round said what they would like to do is set up an appointment with DEC officials. He said to first issue a letter saying the Town chooses to use UV, and then set up a meeting and say we'd like to discuss the potential funding stream for this project.

Supervisor Geraghty asked what he needed from the Board.

Mr. Round said that they just need (tape inaudible) the fact that UV is the process and that it's okay to meet and then is it okay for the...

Mr. Barlow asked if they needed a resolution.

Mr. Round said he didn't think so.

Supervisor Geraghty said they already agreed that. He said Chris and he could meet with DEC and maybe they'd get a hold of Jason Denno.

Mr. Round said Jason would be helpful for funding.

Mr. Round said they'd set that meeting up and copy the supervisor with that.

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MAY 20, 2008

Mr. Round said they will get the schedule pushed out and identify a funding source. He said once they identify a funding source then there's an engineering process it goes through designing the system. He said one of the things in the report was you can't just install it in, you need to build some shelter so that's added some cost to that which was outlined in their initial.

Supervisor Geraghty said he believed with his folks they could build the building. He said he thought they already looked at that and thought that they could do it with their own people. He said they could get paid by the State to put that building up. He said it didn't look that complicated.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT – PHASE II

Supervisor Geraghty said the next phase was to increase the size of the current wastewater treatment system. He said they had gotten a \$25,000 grant, small cities. He said they put in about \$15,000 of town funds. He said they've spent \$41,000 on the study and came up with the size of putting a new lagoon in. He said they looked at a target area to expand the sewer system. Supervisor Geraghty said they asked the County to help out with part of the survey and they found that they didn't get a good response from the survey, but they also found out that the incomes in the area, he thought, didn't meet the criteria to meet some of the funding sources. He said they applied for an initiative through Congresswoman Gillibrand's office. He said they tried to get on the 2009 initiatives and found out recently that they were turned down for that. Since then, Supervisor Geraghty said he wrote to Senator Schumer and Senator Clinton for funding. He said he had not heard back from either one of them but did get a packet from Congresswoman Gillibrand's office of all the grants the Town could apply for to try and get some funding. Supervisor Geraghty said he was disappointed because he doesn't think the Town has even 10% to go into, well he said they probably could rustle up 10%, to apply for a grant that would have 10% funding, but some of those are 20 and some are more to do this. He said they can't expand the hamlet area or the sewer system without the lagoon. He asked the Board for direction on which way they want to go. Supervisor Geraghty asked if they should apply for grant fundings through the other avenue, should they tell the people who come in asking about when the town is going to expand the sewer system... He said he's told them now it would be 2010 before they would do any expansion. He told Chris that's where they are.

Mr. Round said they talked back in November about what they had done and they knew the cost of the expansion of the plant, addition of the lagoon system, and they looked at different ways to slice and dice the service areas. He said the one thing they did add into the report after they had talked to the Town was what's the logical order for progression of these improvements? Number one, expand the plant. Number two would be the Library service area and there are a couple different Library Avenue areas that they've talked about. He said that would be the first online because that's where the highest interest is in the public community. He stated that most of the funding sources do relate

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MAY 20, 2008

to income levels.

Mr. Round said they have not explored the USDA funding option. He said he thought in part of their conversation with DEC it was Denno, who is from EFC, was to put this project on their radar. He said what they have not done is put the project on the clean water revolving loan fund. Mr. Round said they should get it on the list because it takes so long for the projects to move up the list. He said to put that on the list, have the conversation with EFC, and perhaps then have a follow-up conversation with USDA about these are the areas, here's the report, and ask if they have any insight on how they might...

Supervisor Geraghty said they keep sending them information and they want to get back in here to try to fund something. Supervisor Geraghty said he wasn't sure what the Board wanted to do. He said even if they have to contribute, they have to contribute, just to move this project forward. He asked if they should pursue these other funding sources to see what they can do. Supervisor Geraghty stated that one of the things they want is to expand their hamlet through the APA and they need to have the capacity to do that and this would be another thing that they could show the APA that they're expanding their treatment plant so they can take on more area.

Councilman Alexander said looking at certain grants where 10% to 20% maximum that it would be sharing; we couldn't do a whole 50% share or something...

Councilman Markey stated that they can do it in-kind.

Councilman Alexander said no doubt, they could do a lot of the work themselves, but if they go into September, 20% at most was what they could afford on a grant.

Supervisor Geraghty said he thought 20 % would be what they should... He said he still was not giving up and that he really thought the federal government needed to come through. He said he was extremely disappointed in the Congresswoman for not even considering us on her initiatives.

Councilman Alexander said if anybody asks him about it that's his first response, write your congresswoman, write your congressman. He said to write letters every day.

Mr. Round stated yes and that they want to do that again. He said they were just pressing them and to make sure they're getting they're attention.

Supervisor Geraghty asked the Board if that was something they'd like to pursue.

Councilman Barlow said he would like to see them pursue it and check all avenues of funding wherever they may be.

SPECIAL MEETING, WARRENSBURG TOWN BOARD, MAY 20, 2008

Supervisor Geraghty said that he had the small cities booklet and that there are four or five different avenues they can go. He said he thought Patty Monahan went to the same seminar. He asked Ms. Monahan if there were different avenues they could go.

Ms. Monahan said yes.

Councilman Alexander asked what the timeframe was.

Mr. Round said it's mostly years. He stated that he thought the 2010 number was not a bad thing. He said that's a not unrealistic timeframe.

Mr. Round said another thing to keep in mind is that under small cities the economic development program is a floating program. He said there's not a fixed application timeframe. He said if they had someone come in and say they were gonna build this that would create jobs then they'd have something that would make it more attractive from a funding standpoint.

RESOLUTION #111-08

RESOLUTION TO PURSUE FUNDING FOR SEWER DISTRICT EXPANSION

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Barlow the following resolution was: ADOPTED – VOTE – AYES 5 NAYS 0

RESOLVED, to pursue any and all avenues for funding of at least 20% for the sewer district expansion project with a grant application.

Councilman Alexander asked if say they get up to the May of '09 deadline, if funding falls through for the UV is DEC good about extending deadlines for hardship reasons.

Mr. Round said he thought it was a fair request to make. He said they want predictability and they want to know that the Town is taking them seriously and they are progressing.

Supervisor Geraghty said as soon as they can get everybody scheduled together they'd see if they could get Jason Denno and Al Metrose here.

Mr. Round asked who Supervisor Geraghty would like on his part at the meeting.

Supervisor Geraghty said he'd have Patty Monahan, Rick Galusha, and Dexter Duell and they'd get the meeting here as soon as possible.

On motion of Councilman Markey, seconded by Councilman Ackley the meeting was adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Combs, RMC/CMC
Warrensburg Town Clerk

