

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
December 12, 2008
Motions and Resolutions**

Wastewater Treatment Plant

Trustee Millspaugh moved to contract with Delaware Engineering for their services at the Village wastewater treatment plant. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Trustee Hurd moved to hold an executive session pursuant to 105-(f), Personnel, Village Manager. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Norman moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Meeting reconvened.

Adjournment

Trustee Hurd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
December 12, 2008**

Mayor Becky Pearson called the special meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 5:30pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Mary Ellen Matisse
	Trustee	Mary Jean Norman
		Roy Wynkoop
		Richard Hurd
		Susan Rumbold
		Marcus Millspaugh Jr.

Also Present: James C. Politi, Village Manager

Presentation by Delaware Engineering

William Bright, Delaware Engineering stated that they have redesigned and rebuilt a pumping station at the wastewater treatment plant to handle 1.2 million gallons a day and they are in the process of upgrading their treatment plant to an advanced wastewater process double handle 800,000 gallons a day on the foot print that currently treats 400,000 gallons. With new technology you can do that.

Mayor Pearson asked if they had to add more property.

Mr. Bright stated that you don't even have to add more tanks; we're going to do it with the existing tanks. You just put these membrane filters in them and eliminate the clarifiers, eliminate the sand filters and produce drinking water. He invited anyone that wants to come to any of the treatment plants that they operate to see how they work. With the dual sand filter the reject is down to around 5%, so you can only imagine what the savings are. The City of Glens Falls went for special legislation and they did a design built contract and the contractor made a deal with the unions and it was all prevailing wage, but they didn't have to do the Wickes Law. They paid seven million dollars for a plant.

Mr. Bright also stated that they are a little different of an engineering firm because they have as many operators working in the design field as they do engineers and they work hand in hand. The operator is always a part of the design. Right now they are building a twelve point five million dollar facility for the Town of Fishkill. It's a 750,000 gallon a day plant. It was on the EPA list and they were scheduled to be fined. They

were able to get their design in quick. DEC moved it along. They got it designed and approved in about a six month period. What happens is DEC has to answer to EPA. Every quarter they have a meeting and they go over every facilities violations and there is a line and if it's above that line EPA gets involved. If EPA gets involved DEC looks at them a lot tougher. The Fishkill plant will be up and running Dec of 09. They do big projects, little projects, but they do mainly water and wastewater and they do it soup to nuts. They work with engineering firms. He has been working in DEC Region 3 since 1974. He has been work with Delaware Engineering since 1998. They brought the operator from Fishkill in and put him on their design team. They do strategic planning and operational audits. It's always cheaper to fix something from an operational perspective then it is with an engineering resolution.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked what he meant by operational.

Mr. Bright stated that you have a facility and it's not meeting permit for coliform bacteria which is the indicator organism that is used to determine if there is sewage in the water. So at a treatment plant you will have a limit. Two hundred or four hundred colonies per 100 mls of sample. Monthly, weekly, whatever your permit says you go out and take that sample. If that sample fails, why is it failing? It could be failing for any number of reasons. Is it being collected on a day when you have a high flow and the plant is seeing more capacity then it is designed to? When you have high flow you should increase your chlorine feed. When that flow comes into bout, then what has to take place you have to go in and take care of what happened after that. The Village has an attached film process, which is the trickling filters which means the amount of flow that you recycle through them. The flow goes through the trickling filter and gets pump back onto the trickling filter. All you're doing is trying to get the food, which is the sewage, to come in contact with the wastewater. If your flows are very high and you're recycling it four times, but your flows to the plant are twice what the design is then you're only sending it back twice as much as you really should, but you probably don't have the pump capacity to send it back as much as you need to during the periods of high flow. Let's say your plant is designed for 1.2 million and today you flew 2 million gallons through the plant. The nice thing about the plant is that 5 million goes through, you don't meet permit during that time, but when the flow comes back in you didn't damage the plant. There are other processes that are called activated sludge processes which the Village of Fishkill has. Where if you have too much flow coming through the tank that it washes out your bacteria into the stream and then it takes a month to catch back up. Where is as with the Villages plant two or three days within the time when the flow comes back in the effluent coming out of the secondary clarifier should start to meet permit. Then you need to go down and sludge judge you're holding tanks and make sure all the retained solids are removed from the process and not allowed to end up in the chlorine contact tank. The Village's two key violations, flow and coliform, the coliform violations are because you have suspended solids in the chlorine contact tank after high flow events. The key would be, after a high flow event to go in and clean the chlorine contact tank out. Dewater it pump the sludge out or what they do now is add an aeration process in the chlorine contact tanks. There are operational methods to deal with regulatory problems which doesn't require a major rebuild. He likes to use coagulants

when there is high flow. Sometimes it's as simple as a flow meter not recording properly. He doesn't know the specifics of the Village's plant. He's been to many facilities that have had similar issues. He's never seen DEC do this, list violations like they did for the Village. The reason why they are doing that, he doesn't know, but he thinks the reason is that there is infrastructure money coming. The rumor is there is \$750 million of infrastructure coming for wastewater and there is \$250 million for water in New York State. The only way New York State can justify that they need funding is through consent orders. He's sure we're not the only Village. They are taking this seriously. It's 59 violations in a two year period and they're not simple violations. They are not paper violations. The coliform violations raise the biggest flags, because it means you have untreated sewage going into the stream. The environmental groups that could take third party legal action against the Village. Its good DEC called the Village in. Once DEC takes an action under the Clean Water Act third party litigations go away. He believes they are setting the Village up for an administrative action. He asked if the Village has met with the Region 3 attorney.

Manager Politi stated no.

Mr. Bright stated that is where it gets serious. There are a couple of things they usually make you do. An order of consent, hire an engineer, do a comprehensive plan for the treatment process. They will also ask for a hydraulic study because of the way the flows go.

Manager Politi stated that they met with Tom Rudolph and they still have to give their overview of the meeting. We have so much time to respond and then it goes to Region 3.

Mr. Bright stated that the thing to do is to get out in front of it a little bit. That is what they propose to do. They will come in and do an analysis. Not a full CPE. They propose to go out and go to those key pieces of equipment that they believe by looking at the violations are causing the Village a problem. He's sure the trickling filter feed tank has an issue. If you have high flow the flows may be exceeding the capacity of that pumping chamber and there may be some way that flow is getting from that pumping chamber into another place and by passing treatment. If it's by passing treatment that is a serious issue. They propose to go in there and focus on those pieces of equipment that they believe if you got them operating that you would be able to meet permit 90% of the time. He doesn't see any reason why they wouldn't be able to get the Village into compliance, but he's saying that without visiting the plant. He's never seen a treatment plant that is so poorly designed or so poorly deteriorated that with some innovation they couldn't get it back to where it would meet compliance. To give them some breathing room they need to show DEC we're out in front of this. We need to take an action and focus just on violations. If he spends a week there he will know 85% of what needs to be done. You don't fight DEC. With two years of violations you're looking at a six digit fine, over \$100,000. It never really gets to that point. They can help. A good scenario is, you're going to get fined, you're going to have a consent order and the whole goal would be to involve them and negotiate the fine.

Mayor Pearson asked if Mary Beth would negotiate.

Mr. Bright stated that they would be working hand in hand. He would be in the meeting with Tom Rudolph.

Mayor Pearson asked, two years, why wasn't something found before now.

Mr. Bright stated different administrations, and different focus. They will say that they are not responsible for your inability to meet your SPEDES permit. That is your responsibility. DEC is different now. It's a different administration.

Trustee Rumbold stated that the first step is to evaluate.

Mr. Bright stated that they've submitted a proposal which will give the Village a base line as to where they are at and it will give the Village a very pointed analysis of what the major issues are and what needs to be done to correct those major issues to get us into compliance 80% of the time. Then you can start working on your I & I issues. Then you can have protocols at the treatment plant to deal with the high flows.

Manager Politi stated that the ultimate question is how you are going to correct it.

Mr. Bright stated right. He's already looked at the list and he knows he's going to start at the chlorine contact tank. If the Village brings them on they would ask for the next meeting. They would meet with DEC. Their goal would be to get all this done by the first of the year.

Trustee Rumbold asked what the Board has to do to get this started.

Mr. Bright stated that they will send the Village a contract to be signed.

Trustee Millspaugh moved to contract with Delaware Engineering for their services at the Village wastewater treatment plant. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Millspaugh stated that Mr. Bright talked about pump controls and at the Board's last meeting they voted for a bond issue for telemetry on wells. He voted no because he felt there was not sufficient information.

Mr. Bright asked if it was hardwired or radio read.

Manager Politi stated that it was hardwired.

Mr. Bright stated that they have been converting to radio read because it eliminates the phone company and all the nightmares.

Manager Politi stated that our operator went through that and it was more practical to go with the hard wire.

Mr. Bright stated that he will take a look at it.

Trustee Millspaugh asked about their experience with finding money.

Mr. Bright stated that the Mayor was given that information.

Trustee Rumbold asked, once they do the evaluation they will be coming back to the Board and give the report?

Mr. Bright stated that they will be coming back to the Board pretty often and also circulating emails.

Mayor Pearson asked what an average list of violations was.

Mr. Bright indicated two or three. He was surprised that DEC didn't take action in 2006 or 2007 because that is when the Village has very serious coliform violations.

Executive Session

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Trustee Norman moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Meeting reconvened.

Adjournment

Trustee Hurd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk