**BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY MEETING**

**May 14, 2024**

MEMBERS Attending: Chairman - Todd Swanson, Steve Rudnicki, Dennis Lutes, and Jim Simpson

OTHERS: Andrew Thompson, Erin Schuster

MINUTES:  **A motion to approve the minutes of the 12 March meeting was made by Steve Rudnicki and seconded by Dennis Lutes. The motion was passed unanimously.**

OLD BUSINESS:

Andrew provided an update of on-going, and past projects, as well as the activities of the Village DPW departments. Regarding the future work at the WPCF, Andrew noted that another grant application would be initiated with EDA to cover more of the project cost. He still wanted a meeting with the Village Board and the DPW Board to discuss down-scoping of the project if the 2nd grant is not received.

For the Minton Reservoir/WTP pump station Erin indicated that MRB continues to review the as-builts and O&M manuals. They recently received the documents from Gerwitz & McNeil. Close-out of both the contracts is proceeding.

Andrew provided update on the Finley Rd. interconnect contract with O’Connell. Closeout is complete, including resolution of O’Connell’s delay claim. Replacement of the one switch is pending, as a warranty issue.

Andrew commented on the other Electric Dept. projects. He indicated the new Hendrix line has been completed to the Portage substation, connection at the substation is on-going. Andrew indicated that he would have to check with John Tucker regarding the final connection to the vacuum breakers at Bourne St. substation.

The requested adjustments to the PSE’s study had been made. Andrew advised the study indicates an increase in power demand of 50% due to the recent State mandates to convert to electric (renewables) vs. fossil fuels. This increase would result in an approximate cost of $9M in upgrades to substations and the distribution system. Regarding the Bourne St. substation upgrades, Andrew advised the ordering of new transformers was pending review by National Grid. With the lack of bidders to do the study for a second primary feeder to the Village, NYSERDA has initiated an alternate grant program where the Village would select a consultant to be funded by NYSERDA. Andrew stated he intends to have PSE do the study.

Andrew provided and update on MRB’s support services. He indicated no change regarding the grant for the work on Cottage and Academy Streets storm drainage, sidewalks and paving. Andrew noted MRB would be tasked to follow-up Water System Master Plan with grant applications for a future project, based on the study recommendations. He indicated the project cost would be between $5M and $10M. The project scope includes a new 16” line from the treatment plant and replacement of older distribution mains in the Village. Erin commented on the need for repair to the foundation wall of the pumphouse in the gorge. MRB will have a structural engineer inspect the bulging wall in the next month.

Regarding the manhole replacement project at Growers, Andrew noted that the RR was delaying the start of work, withholding their work permit while they review Kingsview’s paperwork/insurance. They have had the information since 13 March 2024. It was suggested that formal correspondence to the RR be sent outlining the impact on required completion prior to grape harvest season. Also, daily contact with the RR may be necessary.

The CGR report and recommendations is still a topic Andrew wants to address. A separate meeting in the future to discuss with board members will be set.

Regarding the fiber-optic owner/operator issue, Andrew noted that Consolidated did not seem interested. He indicated that he would pursue the study at $7500 expense. If it is feasible, it could provide the Village with another income stream.

Regarding the electric rate increase, BST is proceeding; a targeted submission to the PSC is anticipated by the end of June.

Erin noted that Southern Tier West was working on drinking water source protection study. A stakeholder’s meeting was held on 29 April, 2024 to outline goals and plan outline.

REVIEW OF DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Public Works – flushing water mains; start of Holt St. water main replacement.

Electric Dept. – Working on rebuild of circuits 208 and 210 in the Village.

Water Dept. – Operations, continue inspection for lead service lines. Note: Justin Parker has received water plant operator’s license. Benefit provides more flexibility in scheduling work.

Sewer Dept. – Operations

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN DISCUSSION: Andrew noted the EV charging sta. at Barcelona is proceeding. He also noted that the NYMPA financial review shows Westfield in good shape.

**Steve Rudnicki made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Jim Simpson and unanimously passed.**

The next Advisory Board meeting was scheduled for 11 June 2024 at 6:30. ***Subsequently, the mtg. has been moved to Eason Hall, a joint special meeting with the Village Board will precede the DPW meeting.***