

**TOWN OF CASTLETON
SEWER COMMISSION MINUTES
Monday, November 1, 2021
Castleton Fire Station or by Zoom**

Topic: Board of Sewer Commissioners Special Meeting (Sludge Tank Maintenance)

Date: Nov 1, 2021 06:57 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/RNM_ifYIOIGWwhO1NWOVhUuTP5xhrPJctLhU0AjiXSvADYpuY4voYLLg637wo4O.PidX68ChdvbRMMyNZ

PRESENT: Jim Leamy, Chair; Richard Combs, Vice Chair; Joseph Mark, Parliamentarian; Michael Holden, Member; Michael Jones, Town Manager; Christopher Fouracre, DPW Director. Robert Spaulding, Member was absent.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Leamy called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Mr. Holden made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

CITIZENS COMMENTS AND/OR CONCERNS (Items not on the agenda): None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9/27/21: Mr. Combs made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/11/21. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

SLUDGE TANK AT THE WWTF:

DPW Director Christopher Fouracre provided an analysis and modified decision briefing for the board's consideration in the draining, cleaning, inspection, and repair of the sludge tank, as well as the costs associated with the problem. Mr. Fouracre went through the slides and answered questions from the board members. He explained that there were four companies involved in the process. Senesac is the company responsible for providing the equipment and personnel to remove the material from the sludge tank, dewatering the material, and screening it into containers to be transported. Englobe is a compost company in Canada that receives the material. Goulet Trucking is the company who is responsible to transport the material to Canada. The last company involved is the Aqua Store who will be responsible for the cleaning and repair of the damage done to the tank.

Mr. Fouracre explained the best- and worst-case cost scenarios associated with the process. Other considered costs could be cleaning the digesters in the tank (removing debris), potential overtime by Town employees (not expected) and potentially using highway department personnel to help Senecac place their equipment. There could be material that is screened from the tank that is not compostable material and cannot be transported to Canada (rags, plastics bags, etc) and will be disposed of locally.

Mr. Fouracre stated that costs are estimated to be \$190,000 on the low end, and \$400,000 on the high end. Mr. Fouracre believes our costs will be in the \$200,000 range, but until the tank is opened, these estimates remain subject to change.

Mr. Fouracre presented two courses of action. The first was a fall 2021 course of action and the second was a spring 2022 course of action. He presented the costs and availability of the contractors for each of the courses of action. There was discussion about the weather through the end of December, fuel prices (trucking costs), and keeping the WWTF operating while the tank is being drained, cleaned, inspected, and repaired.

Mr. Fouracre recommended to the Board that we should not wait until spring and should start the process now. A discussion took place about the merits of each course of action.

Mr. Holden made a motion to move forward immediately, starting with a letter of intent, or purchase order. He also made a motion that the project be funded using the sewer reserve and if the insurance claim is approved, or the project is eligible for use of the American Rescue Plan Act, that these funds replace what was used from the sewer reserve account. Mr. Mark seconded the motion. Mr. Combs clarified that the board is approving Course of Action #1, as presented by Mr. Fouracre. This was validated by Mr. Leamy. **All were in favor of the motions. Motions passed 4-0.**

ADJOURN: Mr. Holden made a motion to adjourn the Sewer Commission Meeting at 7:42 p.m. Mr. Combs seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion passed 4-0.

Respectfully submitted; Michael A. Jones