

Members Present: Mayor Gary Baker, Trustees Colleen Penta, Lori Tyler and Sharon White  
Members Absent: Trustee Kenneth VanFleet Jr.

Others Present:

Village of Wolcott Clerk – Melanie DeBadts  
Village of Wolcott WWTP – Tommy Mettler  
Village of Wolcott WWTP – Matthew Crane  
NYSDEC – Pradeep Jangbari  
NYSDEC – Donald Cardinal  
Town of Huron Supervisor – Laurie Crane  
Clark Patterson Lee – Eric Wies  
Larry Hogan

Mayor Baker called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

### **Village of Wolcott Waste Water Treatment Plant**

- Pradeep Jangbari congratulated Mayor Gary Baker on the recent Village election and thanked him for arranging for the meeting. The NYSDEC regulates the maximum allowable limit for pollutants through Total Maximum Daily Load documents (TMDL). The maximum limit for phosphorus loading into Port Bay will be reduced to 0.1 mg/L. Mr. Jangbari gave the Board copies of a draft document specifying stricter limits on other pollutants which will need to be addressed with any planned facility upgrades. The Village Waste Water Treatment Plant is not capable of complying with the stricter regulations for pollutants and needs to be upgraded. Albany has expressed a desire to have regional facilities and has adopted a multi-district regional plan. When John Monson was the Mayor his intent was to upgrade the plant and maintain the current SPDES permit. While this is one option, the DEC will have stricter pollutant limits and to ensure compliance with those limits will increase the overall project costs.
- Eric Wies stated that there have been numerous meetings between the Village of Wolcott and the NYSDEC and today is the first time the draft TMDL for other pollutants has come up.
- Matthew Crane asked how the NYSDEC categorizes plants for the limits. Mr. Jangbari responded that basically the category is determined by flow and derived by use of water quality evaluation. At the state level, maximum allowable levels for certain pollutants are being assigned numerical values rather than the verbal descriptions previously provided.
- Matthew Crane asked if the pollutant limits imposed upon Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority (WCWSA) for the regional facility would change if the Village were to send the sludge there. Mr. Jangbari responded that WCWSA would be subject to the stricter limits when their SPDES permit renewed.

### **Village of Wolcott Waste Water Treatment Plant (Continued)**

- Trustee White asked for clarification on secondary and tertiary limits. Mr. Jangbari explained that the tertiary treatment is beyond the secondary treatment and stressed that it would apply to particular parameters – in this case, phosphorus.
- Mr. Jangbari stated that his goal was to make the Board aware that there are two options to consider. The first option is the regional approach while the second option is to upgrade the existing Village facility in a manner which meets all applicable regulations. When the Board decides which option to pursue, Mr. Jangbari will support the decision.
- Mr. Jangbari stated that there was an algae bloom in Port Bay last year which was determined to have been caused by phosphorus. Town of Huron Supervisor Laurie Crane questioned that there was indeed an algae bloom in Port Bay. Donald Cardinal stated that he remembered a specific resident on the East side of Port Bay calling to complain. Mr. Jangbari stated that the NYS Department of Health sampled the water. Mrs. Crane stated that the Towns should have been notified at the time and should have also been made aware of the sample results.
- Mr. Mettler asked about the phosphorus regulation for the entire watershed area. Mr. Wies stated that the Village of Wolcott can be regulated by the NYSDEC because the Village has a permit; whereas individual homeowners can not be forced to comply. Mrs. Crane stated that the Town of Huron has a septic law and septic systems must be checked every five years.
- Mr. Wies stated that the Village agreed to comply with the phosphorus limit and began plans to upgrade the treatment plant. Now that the NYSDEC has come forward with more limits it appears as if the NYSDEC is trying to push the Village away. Mr. Jangbari responded that to a certain extent that was correct, and stressed that would be the intention from Albany. Mr. Jangbari asked Mr. Wies if he was aware that the Village had unreported ammonia violations. Mr. Wies responded yes. Mr. Mettler explained that the daily results were within the limit and while the monthly limit was exceeded, it wasn't reported because he did not know it was a violation. Mr. Jangbari stated that as limits get tighter the potential for excursion increases and there is less maneuverability. For a small system, such as the Village of Wolcott, it is possible to meet the limits but to continuously remain in compliance is very difficult. Continuous compliance requires very advanced treatment and perhaps it would be better in a larger facility with trained staff.
- The regional facility in Red Creek was funded by New York State under the assumption that it would become regional. It was intended to treat sludge from the Town of Huron, the Town of Wolcott, the Village of Wolcott and the Village of Red Creek. If the communities can work together the cost will be less for each one. Mr. Mettler asked if any funding was available. Mr. Jangbari responded that the Village should contact J.C. Smith from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation.
- Trustee Penta stated that at the last meeting with the NYSDEC only the phosphorus loading was discussed and now there is another list with other pollutants. In another year will there be yet another list? Mr. Jangbari responded no.
- Mr. Wies asked about the forced main. Mrs. Crane responded that there was discussion at one time about putting in sewers around Port Bay. Mr. Wies stated that forcing sewers on Port Bay would be tough as the Towns would have to form sewer districts and the cost could be prohibitive. Mrs. Crane stated that when the Town of Huron and Town of Wolcott discussed the project it was decided that it wouldn't be cost effective without participation

### **Village of Wolcott Waste Water Treatment Plant (Continued)**

from the Village of Wolcott. Mr. Jangbari stated that the cost of compliance goes down for every municipality if they cooperate.

- There will be a new SPDES permit for the Village of Wolcott in the near future which must include a second outfall and address problems with the pond. The pond must be cleaned and the Village will need to develop a plan and inform the NYSDEC of the progress. Mr. Mettler stated that Jim Bower from NY Rural Waters will be helping him sludge dredge the pond. Mr. Jangbari asked him to pull some samples and test for metals at that time.
- Mr. Jangbari reiterated that Albany has a preference for regional facilities over small facilities. If the Village Board decides to pursue the regional option, an intermunicipal agreement should address any new future users of the transmission line, what fees will be assessed and how the fees will be shared.
- Mr. Jangbari stated that every new SPDES permit renewal will include an infiltration schedule and the Village should be working hard to eliminate all infiltration. Mr. Mettler stated that smoke testing has been done several times. Mr. Jangbari recommended that Mr. Mettler summarize his efforts to reduce the infiltration as this information will be required for the new SPDES permit.
- Mayor Baker stated that the Board will need to discuss the situation with Wayne County Water and Sewer Authority. Mr. Jangbari stated that if Mayor Baker feels like WCWSA is acting like a monopoly or in any way appearing too pushy that he would like to know. He does not desire any solution that would be unfair to any party and even though a regional approach would be the preferred option that should not give WCWSA the right to take advantage of any other system.
- Mr. Wies stated that the bottom line is the cost to the Village residents, both short term and long term. A funding package is already in place for upgrading the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Wies asked Mr. Jangbari if the funding could be applied toward a project to connect to the regional facility in Red Creek, should the Board chose that option. Mr. Jangbari responded yes, and asked Mayor Baker when the Board would have a decision made. Mayor Baker responded that the Board can discuss the situation in light of all of the information presented but that they will need to know how much each option would cost. Mr. Jangbari asked Mayor Baker to provide him an update in three months and added that he will support the Village Board with whatever decision is made.

Mr. Jangbari and Mr. Cardinal left the meeting at 2:17 pm.

### **Executive Session**

Trustee White made the motion to go into executive session at 2:20 pm to discuss a contractual matter. Trustee Penta seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Penta made the motion to come out of executive session at 3:08 pm. Trustee Tyler seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Trustee Tyler made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:09 pm. Trustee Penta seconded the motion and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Melanie A. DeBadts  
Clerk/Treasurer