Burrillville Sewer Commission

Regular Meeting of June 9, 2020

Zoom Meeting ID: 911 2202 5699

Members Present: William Andrews – Chairman

Richard Nolan – Vice Chairman

Russell Fontaine – Secretary

Gary Rouleau – Commission Member

Daniel Joubert – Commission Member

Also Present: Timothy Kane – Attorney for the Commission

James Dyment – Consulting Engineer

Michael Emond – Superintendent

Dennis Anderson – Town Council Liaison

Jacqueline Batalon – Financial Aide

Mr. Andrews opened the Meeting immediately following the adjournment of the Public Hearing of June 9, 2020.

**Agenda Item –** The question of accepting the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020.

**Voted –** Mr. Fontaine made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Meeting of May 19, 2020 and to dispense with the reading of said Minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Public Comment –** None

**New Business:**

Memo from Stacey Richard, Office Manager, regarding selecting charity/ies for $1,000.00 donation from SBA Tower Rental per terms of agreement.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to donate $500.00 each to the Burrillville Backpack program and Between the Cracks. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

Recommendation by Superintendent, Michael Emond, for Award of Bid, Wastewater Treatment Process Chemicals.

Mr. Emond gave a brief overview of the bids for Process Chemicals.

Mr. Emond stated that Sodium Sulphide received no bids, but has been replaced by Nalmet, which is a proprietary chemical. Therefore, there is no need to bid. Mr. Fontaine asked how much the chemical bids increased from last year. Mr. Emond stated that the increase is approximately 5%.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept Mr. Emond’s recommendation of the lowest bidders for treatment process chemicals as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Fontaine. All in favor, so voted.

Adoption and Implementation of the Operations and Maintenance Budget for FY2021.

**Voted –** Mr. Fontaine made a motion to approve and accept Option #3 of the presented budgets as presented, in the amount of $2,795,222.00. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

Adoption of Exhibit A (fee schedule) of the Rules and Regulations.

**Voted –** Mr. Fontaine made a motion to accept Option #3 of the budgets as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Correspondence** – None

**Engineer’s Report:**

Revised cost on Chapel Street sewer project

Mr. Dyment explained that he was asked by Jeff McCormick, Director of DPW, to provide a revised cost estimate of the Chapel Street sewer project, to include the cost of grinder pumps. Mr. Andrews stated that the BSC will oversee the project, but the cost will be covered by the Town of Burrillville.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Engineer’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Attorney’s Report:**

Mr. Kane stated that he had a friendly phone conference with RIDEM on May 27, mostly discussing interim limits on Copper. Aside from that, there were a couple of routine issues that came up throughout the month and were handled.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Attorney’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Superintendent’s Report:**

Report for the month of May, 2020

1. **WWTF OPERATIONS**
2. Influent to Treatment Facility – MGD

Average Daily Flow = 0.9260

Maximum Daily Flow = 1.2520 on 03-May

Minimum Daily Flow = 0.0000 on 24-May

Percent Average

Removal Concentration

1. Biochemical Oxygen Demand

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% min 10.0 mg/L

May achieved = 99.4% 1.5 mg/L

1. Total Suspended Solids

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = 85.0% 15.0 mg/L

May achieved = 99.2% 2.2 mg/L

1. Total Phosphorus

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 0.10 mg/L

May achieved = 99.0% 0.048 mg/L

1. Total Ammonia

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.9 mg/L

May achieved = 27.1% ***20.2 mg/L***

1. Total Copper

EPA / DEM Permit Requirement = N/A 8.0 ug/L

May achieved = 98.1% 6.7 ug/L

1. Disposed Sludge

Dry Tons Disposed of = 44.31

Number of Loads Removed = 31

Average Dry Tons / Load = 1.43

Permit Excursion

The ammonia permit limit decreases from 31.5 mg/L starting on May 1st and remains at the lower limit until October 31st. The final effluent monthly average ammonia concentration for the month of May was 20.2 mg/L, resulting in a permit excursion. Matt Puglia of RIDEM was notified of the excursion on June 1, 2020. It is suspected that the lack of nitrification (the conversion of ammonia to nitrite / nitrate) is mostly due to low water temperatures, which inhibit nitrification; however, to ensure the biomass has adequate dissolved oxygen to encourage nitrification, the aeration mixer timers were adjusted to increase aeration time.

Callout Alarms

There were two (2) after hour alarm callouts for the WWTF in May 2020.

5/9/20 – Transfer Switch – Power bump caused Phos Building loss of power and primary clarifier high torque alarms.

5/20/20 – Transfer Switch – Plant had an AC power failure. Phos Building loss of power, also pumps, compressors and chemical pumps. High headloss.

1. **COLLECTION SYSTEM OPERATIONS**

There were fifteen (15) after hour collection systems call-in responses for the month of May 2020. Find the call-in table below:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Location | Nature of Call / Alarm Condition | Issue Found |
| 5/3/20 | Beach Rd ES | High Wet Well | Blockage due to rags. Back flushed. |
| 5/9/20 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #2 Failed | Reset pump. Pumped down wet well. |
| 5/11/20 | Mapleville PS | High Wet Well Normal | Pump #2 clogged. Unclogged pump. Still won’t pump. Next day found wire nut cracked. Replaced nut. Pump #2 OK. |
| 5/12/20 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #2 Failed | Pump #2 won’t run due to fault. Cleared fault. |
| 5/12/20 | Oakland PS | Flood Pump Room | 2.5 to 3 feet of water in pump room (dry well). Water coming through pump #2. Called Burrillville Cesspool to pump out pump room. Shut valve to Pump #2. |
| 5/13/20 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #2 Failed | Pump #2 out for fault. Fault code PHF (loss of a line phase). Cleared fault, pumped down wet well. |
| 5/17/20 | Beach Rd ES | High Wet Well | Rags. Suction plugged. Nothing coming into pot. Back flushed and pulled rags. |
| 5/20/20 | School Street PS | High Wet Well & Pump #1 Failed | High wet well caused by power loss same time as plant experienced power loss. Reset pump soft start and pump started. Wet well normal. |
| 5/21/20 | Eagle Peak PS | High We Well, Pump #1 Failed, Pump #2 Failed | Pump #1 leak detected. Pump #2 soft start failure. Repower pump #1, reset leak failure. Ran pump for amps 13.1, OK. Repower pump #2, checked amps, 13.7, OK. Reset all alarms and pumped down wet well. |
| 5/22/20 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #1 Failed | Pump #1 leak detected. Reboot pump #1, cleared alarm. Ran pump, amps OK. |
| 5/23/20 | Beach Rd ES | High Wet Well | No flow to pot. Back flushed suction. |
| 5/23/20 | Mohegan PS | Pump #1 Failed | Found transducer failed. Installed new transducer. Ran both pumps, OK. Flow caused high wet well at Oakland PS. |
| 5/30/20 | Rock Avenue ES | High Wet Well | Debris stuck in system,, Cleared blockage, pumped down well. |
| 5/30/20 | Beach Rd ES | High Wet Well | Debris in clapper. Cleared debris, pumped down well. |
| 5/31/20 | Eagle Peak PS | Pump #2 Failed | Soft start PHL – phase protection. Reset pump. Pumped down wet well. |

1. **MAINTENANCE**

Throughout May – Primary clarifier #2 sludge sump clogged with rags – Cannot remove them via primary sludge pump to the blended sludge tanks. Portable pumps and Burrillville Cesspool were used to remove material from the primary clarifier. Supernatant (untreated water) was pumped to the aeration tanks, sludge was vacuumed by tank truck, and wither discharged directly to the blended sludge tanks for disposal at Synagro or to the grit chamber for resettling in primary clarifier #1. Extra sludge loads were sent to Synagro to keep the on-line primary blanket at a normal depth. Veolia was contacted on May 21st to arrange for a Vactor truck to complete the job by removing the rags throughout the tank and washing the tank sidewalls.

5/12/20 – Police reported to BSC Office that they received a call from the homeowner of 44 Mill Pond Drive reporting water coming out of a sewer manhole. Crew and Superintendent responded and went to Mill Pond Drive. A manhole on a side street was weeping water. The manhole was a dry well for a clean-out for the low pressure force main. Burrillville Cesspool was called and vacuumed the water out of the manhole. A small crack had developed at the threads of the two inch nipple connect to the ball valve. The crew returned later and replaced the nipple and ball valve.

5/15/20 – Received a new Utility Truck.

5/18/20 – BSC Office received a call from a homeowner on Irving Avenue reporting a possible backup because they were experiencing slow drains. The crew responded and opened the manhole covers upstream and downstream of the home in question and found very good flow in the main. The crew reported the results of their investigation to the homeowner and suggested the problem is within their property.

5/21/20 – Nextest conducted pressure tests of underground storage tanks (UST’s)at Oakland, Mapleville and Reservoir Road pump stations. All passed.

5/26/20 – Oakland PS has a UST water detect alarm. Called Nextest and they came to troubleshoot. Found the sensor was faulty and replaced with new sensor.

5/26/20 – New Vaughan Chopper Pump ordered for Eagle Peak pump station.

5/27/20 – Apple Valley Alarm installed new automatic transfer (ATS) switch for the Glendale pump station generator. ATS was tested by opening the main switch to pump station.

5/27/20 – New air compressor head and motor installed at Beach Road ejector station by WWTF crew.

1. **CURRENT ISSUES**

6/2/20 – Matt Puglia from RIDEM visited plant for inspection. He was concerned about the ammonia excursion and the condition of the primary clarifiers and the odors particularly of primary clarifier #2, which still had approximately 3-4 feet of sludge left on the bottom. He recommended the primary clarifier cleaning process be accelerated and he remarked that he could cite us for odors. Matt also looked at the influent wet wells because of the rag issue and chlorine contact tanks to check effluent quality. Matt said he will call within two days to inquire about the plan of action to address the sludge removal from primary clarifier #2.

Mr. Emond gave a brief summary of the Superintendent’s Report. He stated that May was a good month, with the exception of ammonia issues, due to cold water temperatures. Mr. Nolan suggested sending out a mailing regarding rags and increases to sewer use fees. There was some discussion on this matter. Mr. Andrews requested that Mr. Emond draft a memo regarding the rag issue for residents to be sent out with the next billing.

**Voted –** Mr. Nolan made a motion to accept the Superintendent’s Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rouleau. All in favor, so voted.

**Sewer Use/Sewer Assessment Write-Offs** – None

**Agenda Item – Take action on compensation requests of three (3) employees – Superintendent, Office Manager & Financial Aide.**

**Voted –** Mr. Fontaine made a motion to approve the compensation request of Michael Emond, Superintendent, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

Mr. Fontaine made a motion to approve the compensation request of Stacey Richard, Office Manager, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

Mr. Fontaine made a motion to approve the compensation request of Jacqueline Batalon, Financial Aide, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

Mr. Fontaine made a motion to authorize William Andrews, Chairman, to sign and authorize the compensation requests and to dispense with the signatures of the remaining Commission members, due to COVID-19 restrictions. The motion was seconded by Mr. Nolan. All in favor, so voted.

**Adjournment:**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Batalon

Financial Aide

I have read the Minutes of the previous pages and hereby ratify the same.

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William Andrews Richard Nolan Russell Fontaine

Chairman Vice Chairman Secretary

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Gary Rouleau Daniel Joubert

Commission Member Commission Member