

SPECIAL MEETING

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Wednesday March 3, 2010 4:30 P.M. FAYAL TOWN HALL

Special PUC meeting was called to order by Chairman Bertucci at 4:30 p.m.

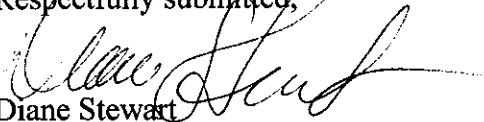
Roll: Chairman P. Bertucci, D. O'Connor, and J. Damberg. Absent were: R. Troutwine & D. Pernu. Water Wastewater operator Dickson and recording secretary Stewart. Also present were Town Chairman S. Kniefel, Supervisor M. Erjavec & T. Tammaro

Purpose: meeting with Brett Balavance from the MPCA to gather information on the process for the Town to look at sewer ponds.

Brett Balavance staff engineer at the MPCA reviewed the maps of the town's collection system. He wants to know why the Township would want to go this direction. Gilbert is asking Fayal to pay by the customer, we are about 27% of the flow and 45% customers. They are counting the apartments and the school as one connection, they are not taking into account their I & I. The monthly sewer rates would have to dramatically increase to cover the fees. He suggests the two entities try and come up with a fair charging system. He recommends looking at the formula the WLSSD uses. It incorporates the flow and the mass loading (BOD). Kniefel states that is what the original contract was modeled after. O'Connor will contact the WLSSD for this information. 40 % of our payments to Gilbert were to be put into the wastewater improvement fund. The purpose of the fund is for plant improvement, the money is gone according to the last proposal. Brett states he is seeing plants shutting down and coming together with other communities and we are asking to do the opposite. Balavance reviewed the process that should be taken to get started. Most of the systems in the state are ponds. Disadvantage you are only allowed to discharge in the spring and in the fall. They must have a 210 day retention for northern MN. The normal costs for a year for the permits and testing are around \$10,000 per year. The initial application fee is \$9,600. Ponds can be a one man operation, must keep the edges mowed and the cattails cut. Ponds can last 40-50 years. Mechanical plants last about 20 years. Gilbert is under an enforcement action with the MPCA, they have to rehab the plant, they don't have to do the expansion. Can the PCA influence them to form a district and take the politics out of it? They changed the formula to not include points for consolidation. What happened to the regionalization? Virginia pulled out and then Gilbert changed their mind. We will need a surface discharge permit, getting one is tough for a Lake Superior Basin. Look at the locations and do an effluent limit review. It's more difficult to get a permit into a low flow creek. Because of that we should look at both surface discharge and spray irrigation permits. Process-Consultant takes about 3 months. Funding- PFA application needs to be in by May 7, 2010 to get on the Intended User list. Should do a project scoring worksheet and see how high we score otherwise we will have to bond for it, 45pts was the threshold last year. 20 pts for Consumptive use nitrogen, spray irrigation. Most of the points come from failing systems. Start with the effluent limit review, 2 forms on the website MN Dept of Health one for ponds, one for spray irrigation. Think about a clay source. Donna will Talk to WLSSD.

Town will meet with Gilbert March 16, 2010 @ 4:00 at Fayal.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane Stewart
PUC/Billing Clerk