

Public Hearing - Minutes
Village of Almena
March 12, 2019 • 6:00 PM

President Rayment called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Present: President Rayment; Trustees: Hellmann, Roff, Jensen, Rockow. Also present: Public Works Director Riebe, Clerk/Treasurer Bauer, SEH Senior Engineer Jerry Doriott, and two citizens.

The Clerk-Treasurer acknowledged that a Class II notice was published 2/20/19 and 2/27/19 in the Barron News-Shield

President Rayment stated that the purpose of this meeting is to review the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) facility plan and prompt questions or comments from the public.

Jerry Doriott presented the WWTP Facility review and recommendation.

- Almena's WWTP was built in 1978 and utilizes old technology – coarse bubble
- New phosphorus rules require action to meet effluent limits
 - Almena WWTP phosphorus effluent limit set at .075 mg/L
 - Current facility cannot reach this lower limit – levels at .5 mg/L
- Two viable options to consider:
 - 1) Upgrade current plant & lagoon and apply for a Multi Discharger Variance (MDV) from WI DNR
 - Cost \$2.2 million
 - Construction can be completed in one year
 - New aeration system, pumps, lagoon liners, fine screens
 - Gain energy efficiencies and reduction in chemical usage
 - MDV – 5-year waiver – provides stepped approach to reducing phosphorus levels
 - Eligibility requirement – sewer rates are at least 1% of Median Household Income
 - Sewer rates must increase to cover cost and qualify for MDV
 - V of Almena sewer rates are low compared to other municipalities at .5% of MHI
 - Estimated quarterly user charge \$130
 - 2) Construct a new mechanical WWTP
 - Cost \$4.4 million
 - MDV still needed as new plant would not meet phosphorus limits
 - Chemicals still needed to lower phosphorus
 - Sewer rates must increase to cover cost and qualify for MDV
- SEH recommendation: most cost effective – upgrade current plant and lagoon
 - Recommend proceeding with design in 2019 and construction in 2020

Public and Board Comments & Questions

- Average sewer charges for other municipalities – 2% of Median Household Income
- Financing questions:
 - Grants are available but would make MDV eligibility difficult
 - Jerry to provide grant threshold
 - Recommend low rate Clean Water Fund loan
 - Sewer rates can be increased in stages
- Next steps: hire Engineering firm for design to submit for approval by September
- Clerk/Treasurer to send a newsletter to Village residents to communicate plan

Adjourn: No further comments. Motion to adjourn: Hellmann, Second: Jensen, all in favor. Motion carried.

Kim Bauer
Village Clerk/Treasurer