

**MINUTES OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
NOVEMBER 27, 2017**

A special meeting of the Common Council of the City of Oneida, NY was held on the twenty-seventh day of November, 2017 at 6:30 o'clock P.M. in the Council Chambers, Oneida Municipal Building, 109 N. Main Street, Oneida, NY.

Meeting was called to order by Deputy Mayor Jim Chamberlain

**PRESENT:** Councilors Al Cohen, Michael Bowe, Erwin Smith, Helen Acker and Thomas Simchik

**ABSENT:** Mayor Leo Matzke

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Clerk Susan Pulverenti  
City Engineer Jon Rauscher  
Comptroller Lee Ann Wells  
Councilor-Elect Jim Coulthart

**DISCUSSION - 2017 MAYORS BUDGET**

*Capital Budget – Department of Public Works*

City Engineer Jon Rauscher displayed a power point presentation on his Capital Plan. He outlined the department's debt service noting that a dump truck, the reconditioning of W. Sands Street, the salt shed, and sidewalk plow will be paid off in 2023, and the plow truck purchased in 2016 will be paid off in 2030. He said that their annual debt payment is currently \$52,478.

The City Engineer said that his Capital Budget Plan includes the Annual Street Resurfacing (\$318,374), Rail Trail Construction Phase (\$1,234,000), DPW vehicle replacements (\$610,454), Relocation of DPW building (\$1,900,000), LED Street Light Conversion Phase 1 (\$700,000) and the Lower Mt. Hope Dam Alternative Study (\$90,000).

The City Engineer said the Capital Project for the Lower Mt. Hope Dam Alternative Study was not listed in the original budget. Engineer Rauscher said that he is waiting on the engineering assessment, but he has heard that the dam has failed both the hydrological study for spillway analysis and the slope stability analysis. He explained how the earthen dam could fail under certain load conditions. He said that new regulations have come out to determine slope stability. He said that there is no danger and outlined the design alternatives to address the problems. The City Engineer said there is no overflow to the dam itself, and the spillway doesn't activate that often. He said that the Recreation Director has been made aware of the issue with the dam. Engineer Rauscher said that this is similar to what the City is looking at with the Glenmore Dam.

The City Engineer said that the Capital Project for paving does not have any additional funding budgeted other than the CHIPS monies; however, there is maintenance funding for slurry. He said that the annual street resurfacing work is based on overall condition, pavement age (15 years or higher) and traffic counts. He said it also includes upgrading pedestrian curb ramps to ADA standards (approximately \$75K), as required by the NYS DOT. He displayed a map with some of the streets that need to be considered, which included Cleveland Avenue, Warner Street, North Street and Chappell Street, along with the Vineyard, Orchard and Skinner Road in Kenwood. The Council discussed sidewalks, different City streets needing paving, the 50/50 sidewalk cost share, and the possible use of cold mix for streets that are not heavily traveled. He said that Oneida Street will be resurfaced through the Rail Trail project. Councilor Bowe inquired about the NYS DOT project on Lenox Avenue and how the DOT is narrowing the lanes. The City Engineer said that it was requested that no maintenance of the sidewalk to Walmart be done this year, as they have not completed the project.

City Engineer Rauscher said that the bids have been received for the Rail Trail Project with a local company (CCI Companies Inc.) coming in with the lowest bid, although their bid was still \$200K higher than the engineer's estimated costs. He said that they are looking at options to bring the costs down. A lengthy discussion resulted, which included a breakdown of the bids, rebidding the project, changing the designs, restoring the bridge at Hubbard, rerouting around the bridge on Hubbard Place, Madison County's responsibility for maintaining the bridge, extension of the grants and possible negotiations with the low bid contractor to eliminate various parts of the bid. He outlined some suggestions of what the Council could eliminate from the bid to bring the costs down to the \$1M level, including some that could be done in-house or by the County Highway Department. The City Engineer said that the City has been reimbursed approximately \$200K on the design fees, and if the project is not approved to move forward, the City would be responsible to pay that money back. The City Engineer said that the current bids are good for 45 days.

The City Engineer moved on to the Capital Project for vehicle replacement. He displayed a list of all the DPW vehicles (various trucks, loaders, backhoes, etc.) with their current depreciated values. He said they are looking at replacing the 2007 International Plow truck with a new International truck (\$247,125), in an effort to keep on track with a 10-year replacement program. He said that the 2007 would become the backup vehicle, and the 2004 would be scrapped. The City Engineer discussed the vehicle replacement program and how ours works, while also mentioning Cazenovia and Hamilton's vehicle replacement programs. He said that they purchase most of the trucks from Tracy Road Equipment and are guaranteed a trade-in value from them, noting that doing business with one company is a benefit. He explained the advantages of tracking the repair costs and said that since June, they have put \$8,638 into the International. The Council discussed setting up a Capital Reserve Account. The Comptroller said that the Council would set it up, fund it and decide on any expenditures from the account.

The City Engineer said that they have been repairing the 2011 Street Sweeper since they bought it, with over \$9K in repair costs this year alone. He said that the unit would be good for an airport or parking lot, but it doesn't do a good job on City streets. He said that they have been looking at sweepers (\$244K new) more appropriate for City streets and have tested five or six different ones, adding that they would trade-in the 2011 sweeper. The City Engineer said they will also be replacing the 13-year old skid steer (bobcat) at a projected cost of \$71K. He added that they have most of the attachments, so the price may be lower. The City Engineer said that he has received a \$1.9M grant to relocate the DPW building to Harden Street. He said that they are looking at a pole barn style building with a similar set-up to that of Hamilton's. The discussion included also moving the Water Department to the new facility, and the City tearing down the old facility bit-by-bit. Councilor Bowe said the grant is for the DPW.

The discussion turned to the demolitions in the flats. Councilor Acker stated there are specific guidelines that must be followed. Councilor Acker said that the demos are 100% reimbursable and will not affect the 2018 budget.

#### *Capital Budget – Sewer*

The City Engineer outlined the Sewer Capital Projects. He said that there are currently many projects going on at the Waste Water Treatment Plant, adding that upgrades at the WWTP are in the millions of dollars. He said they are looking at replacing the Solids-Thickening Equipment estimated at \$1.5M, which will encompass replacement of the existing dewatering and thickening equipment with a new BFP and two new gravity belt thickeners, along with associated sludge pumps, piping, control panel and SCADA system programming. He said the existing belt press is 27 years old and at the end of its useful life.

City Engineer Rauscher said that the next Sewer Capital Project is the replacement of a hoist truck with utility box (\$54,193), and a discussion followed. The Council decided that they did not want to bond for this vehicle, but would rather the payment for this Capital Project be made from the Sewer Fund Balance. The Comptroller and City Engineer said they are looking at setting up a Capital Reserve Account to bring the Sewer Fund Balance to 30% from the current 66%.

The City Engineer said the next project is to purchase a video inspection lateral camera (\$114,205) to inspect the City owned sanitary sewer lateral for issues, noting that this lateral camera will work with the current system. He said that, if available, he will buy a demo unit. The City Engineer also stated that once purchased, they will be marketing their services to other municipalities, and Councilor Bowe said that the City could not do it for less than it costs, including time, manpower, gas to/from, etc. The City Engineer explained the size, purpose and capabilities of the unit. Another brief conversation was held about the storm sewers in the flats.

The next project is the West Elm Street Infrastructure (\$1,170,000), which will provide water and sewer services to an approximately 400 acre industrial development site with rail spur access. He said that the Madison County IDA has secured \$1M in State aid for this project, which will provide for industrial economic expansion in the City. The City/County revolving loan funding will be utilized, and the Water Fund would pick up some of the costs as well. The City Engineer explained the details of the project, including the flows to the WWTP and residents tying in to the water line.

The City Engineer said that there is another Capital Project that is not listed in the 2018 Sewer budget. He said there is a consent order to review alternatives for treating industrial waste loading. He said they are looking at \$400K for Phase 2 Design Services for a dedicated force main line from HP Hood to the WWTP, with a pretreatment system at the end of the line before it goes into the plant. He explained the alternatives that were looked at and said that costs would have to be negotiated with HP Hood.

The Deputy Mayor said that the next meeting is tomorrow night, Tuesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Acker

The special meeting is hereby adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

CITY OF ONEIDA, NEW YORK

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Susan Pulverenti, City Clerk