

Livingston County Water Sewer Authority/Town of York
Informational Meeting
August 3, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisor Gerald Deming, Council Members: Jason Swede, Norm Gates and Frank Rose Jr. and Amos Smith.

Others: Jason Molino, (Liv. Co. Water & Sewer Authority) Eric Wies (CPL), Dennis House, Chris Pascuzzo, Carl Peter, Henry Fuller, Suzanne Holland, Roger McCracken, Kirk Richenberg, Steve Beardsley, Louie Miller.

Supervisor Deming opened the informational meeting at 6:00pm, introducing Jason Molino, Executive Director of the Livingston County Water & Sewer Authority and Eric Weis from the Town's engineering firm, CPL.

Mr. Molino thanked all who were in attendance and stated this informational meeting was to present the Regional Water Supply Expansion Project that is currently being discussed in several towns and villages across the County. Mr. Molino noted that he previously attended the York Town Board meeting on July 12th and had shared this slide show presentation at that time with the Town Board.

(To view this presentation, please go to Town's website under July 12th, 2022 Town Board minutes).

Mr. Molino then gave a brief background of LCWSA location and services while mentioning that York resident Steve Beardsley who was in attendance this evening, had been a long time LCWSA Board Member.

Mr. Molino said the topic of how to bring more water to the York and Leicester areas due to the AKZO Salt mine collapse has been in the forefront for discussion. In 2014, a settlement was reached providing millions of dollars of funds available to these areas and surrounding towns where water supplies were affected by the collapse. In February 2022, the Board of Supervisors authorized the LCWSA to be the lead agent in this proposed project and Mr. Molino then began presenting the project to the surrounding communities for consideration.

In Mr. Molino's slide presentation, he provides the graphics for 5 scenarios that could affect the proposed project including reduction in water rates, supply issues, grant funding, debt and financing costs relative to the installation of the water lines. Mr. Molino offered a map of the proposed routes offering alternatives pending the scenario. He then discussed the various paths water lines would be installed and related upgrades to existing infrastructure along the way as well as land elevations involved.

Mr. Molino confirmed that the Town of York is currently under contract with the Village of Geneseo with a water agreement to purchase water at 800,000-gallon day allotment. It was stated by Supervisor Deming that the Town of York is currently using

approximately 680,000 gallon per day during peak times. With the addition of new water districts and draw from local farms, the need to increase capacity will soon become an issue for York as well as many other surrounding towns and villages while mentioning that access to multiple water sources is always beneficial. In addition to having increased water source capabilities, the need to update infrastructure is another factor for municipalities to be looking at this opportunity as it could be financially valuable to those that are due for necessary upgrades to their facilities.

Mr. Molino shared the participating towns (York, Leicester, Geneseo, Mt. Morris, Lima, Livonia and Avon) villages (Mt. Morris & Leicester) all have this on their agenda to discuss and possibly take action, noting that the potential project has gained a lot of momentum in a short period of time and by reaching out to the many municipalities, it helps to spread the costs of the project. Mr. Molino mentioned that the due date for the grant funding application process to be completed and submitted is now September 9, 2022 which is sooner than anticipated therefore, he is making time to attend many local board meetings.

At this time, Mr. Molino opened the meeting for questions/comments.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Kirk Richenberg:

Mr. Richenberg asked Mr. Molino what was the size of the proposed transmission lines.

Mr. Molino replied both 16” and 20”.

Mr. Richenberg then asked if those diameters are able to support the projected 2 million gallons per day.

Mr. Molino replied with a yes.

Mr. Richenberg asked about the water rates from the City of Rochester discussed earlier in Mr. Molino’s presentation and how long those rates are guaranteed for.

Mr. Molino said no guarantees from the City of Rochester but their rate has been stable for 15 years only going up once during that 15–16-year period.

Mr. Richenberg asked how old was the Rochester facility?

Mr. Molino said it was built in the 80’s but has undergone a series of upgrades in the early 2000’s.

Mr. Richenberg then stated that in 20 years you’re probably looking at upgrades...who pays for that?

Mr. Molino said that would be a shared expense by all involved municipalities.

Mr. Richenberg then asked Mr. Molino if he knew of any part of Route 15A that is still wooden conduit.

Mr. Molino replied there is no wood left and attendee Chris Pascuzzo agreed with Mr. Molino's reply saying that he himself had walked that line and confirmed there is not.

Amos Smith:

Mr. Smith asked Mr. Molino what the City of Rochester draw is?

Mr. Molino answered anywhere 36M gallons per day and with the potential to add more from this project up to 42-46M per day.

Kirk Richenberg:

Is the City of Rochester pursuing other areas for agreements?

Mr. Molino said he did not think they were actively pursuing other agreements stating that we (LCWSA) are probably their only active at this time.

Henry Fuller:

Addressing his question directly to Supervisor Deming; he asked, we have no more water available to us?

Supervisor Deming replied that we have an 800,000 gallon per day allotment from the Village of Geneseo.

Mr. Fuller then asked...How did we get this way...Bringing on Covington? If we knew we were close, why did we go ahead and do that as well as the Cheese Plant? Mr. Fuller continued to offer up his reasons for the capacity issues.

Supervisor Deming then commented that upgrades were needed and Mr. Wies from CPL reiterated that the costs Mr. Fuller was referring to were from 5 years ago. Mr. Wies then stated that when you start look at all the parts and pieces you are looking at \$1M to do the necessary upgrades to our current facilities.

Mr. Fuller then asked: Are we making any money selling water to Leicester and Covington?

Supervisor Deming replied with yes, we are.

Again, Mr. Fuller commented that we (Town of York) hold the key to the \$16M in settlement funds that they (LCWSA) need.

Supervisor Deming acknowledged Mr. Fuller's comments and reminded him that he did not have to be in favor of the project.

Mr. Fuller expressed tht he was having difficulty seeing the numbers on the sheet that was provided at the July 12th board meeting. Mr. Molino apologized for not being able to see the figures and offered to make new copies if Mr. Fuller would like.

Amos Smith:

What is the stability in our sources?

Mr. Molino provide the 3 sources: 1) Silver Lake, which definitely has some water quality issues, 2) Conesus, has less water quality issues and 3) Hemlock, even less.

Mr. Wies then explained the water quality issues regarding State thresholds are ongoing even with Village of Geneseo current standards. Issues with THM's are going to happen regardless.

Mr. Smith then asked how does that compare to Monroe County water?

Mr. Wies said every system struggles with these types of issues; age of system is also a factor.

Mr. Molino and Mr. Wies both discussed wholesale rates between Monroe & Genesee Counties noting that Genesee County is now going through serious upgrades.

Mr. Smith asked both Mr. Wies and Mr. Molino how do they (Genesee Co) supply water to our neighbors?

Mr. Wies said that every farm in Genesee County wants water and now Monroe's allotment for Genesee Co is tapped out.

Kirk Richenberg:

Do you have anyone signed on yet to an Inter Municipal Agreement?

Mr. Molino stated that they are now just having those discussions, and all the towns/villages are putting it on their upcoming agendas.

Dennis House:

Are the Villages of Geneseo & Avon aware of the potential loss of revenue?

Mr. Molino said from his perspective it was important to bring in all the engineering firms making them aware of the project proposal in terms of capacity numbers.

Amos Smith:

How does this affect our current plans?

Mr. Wies answered this question by addressing the upgrades needed for the pump stations and the costs the Town would be looking at in order to do the updates required.

Councilman Smith asked why Caledonia is not involved in this?

Mr. Molino replied Town or Village?

Mr. Smith said “Both”

Mr. Molino shared that they are just now in the process of doing surveys in certain areas of Caledonia.

Mr. Wies added that there really has not been much interest expressed so far.

Kirk Richenberg:

Mr. Richenberg asked Supervisor Deming how much water do we send annually to Leicester?

Supervisor Deming replied our agreement is for up to 50,000 gallons per day.

Mr. Richenberg then asked how long has the Town been selling water to Leicester and does it connect to the water tower on Caledonia Road

Mr. Wies answered this question by saying approximately 7-8 years and it stops at the water tower.

Mr. Richenberg then asked if the Town Board had considered working with the Village of Geneseo.

Both Mr. Molino and Supervisor Deming said they (Village of Geneseo) can't. Their withdrawal permit only allows up to 2 million gallons per day. Mr. Wies added that with their treatment plant foot print, they just don't have the capacity to be able to offer up more.

Mr. Wies stated that we do not anticipate any upgrades with costs being passed on to those involved in the agreement.

Mr. Richenberg then asked, I would like to ask the farmers on the Board, do you see a need for this? Also noting that he was not targeting them just asking for their input.

Councilman Smith answered that it was a good question to ask and yes, we need more water to support all we have. His farm uses municipal water but also draws from ponds on their properties.

Councilman Swede replied to the question by saying they did not have municipal water on their farm.

Councilman Gates did say that they do have municipal water that they use mainly for washing equipment in addition to some animal consumption. They also use their own water source/wells at certain times.

Supervisor Deming also addressed Mr. Richenberg question by saying that he did already have a farmer asking to put on another dairy farm into the water district and we are not able to accommodate them at this time.

Mr. Richenberg then asked who is our current attorney on behalf of the Town who would be looking at/reviewing the agreement?

Supervisor Deming replied Town Attorney Jim Campbell.

Mr. Richenberg then commented, Am I correct that Jim Campbell, the Town's attorney is also LCWSA attorney as well resulting in potential conflicts?

Mr. Molino answered it would be up to the Town Board to decide if they feel there is a conflict as he is not the sole attorney for all interested parties.

Mr. Richenberg stated that Mr. Campbell pretty much represents just about all the towns that are interested.

Dennis House:

Mr. House asked if the Village of Avon's cost is over \$5.00?

Mr. Molino answered yes and briefly discussed the wholesale rate for out of district customers.

Henry Fuller:

Mr. Fuller inquired where exactly does the proposed line cross the Genesee River?

Councilman Smith believed according to the map provided it was near the Oxbow which is near Nations Road.

Mr. Fuller was not certain if it was the Oxbow Lane or maybe near York Landing after looking at the map Mr. Molino provided noting that it was difficult to see.

Mr. Molino reminded all that the map on display was just a conceptual map not exact as nothing has been surveyed yet.

Amos Smith:

Referencing the map and the 5 scenarios the water could potentially go, Councilman Smith asked why the route taken?

Both Engineer Wies and Mr. Molino noted a number of factors with cost & elevation being the main purpose.

Jay Swede:

Councilman Swede asked Mr. Molino once you start adding on customers, how long before you start maxing out?

Mr. Molino said with the addition of mainly residential connections, we are still a long way out.

Henry Fuller:

Mr. Fuller asked Mr. Molino what would happen to our original Water Dept?

Mr. Molino replied that this project is just a wholesale agreement and all municipalities will continue to maintain the maintenance portion of servicing their own communities.

Mr. Fuller did comment that we can't offer water to everyone. Mr. House spoke up and reminded Mr. Fuller of the conversations had many years ago that he himself was involved in which resulted in Mr. Fuller getting water to his own residence asking him wasn't that a good thing?

Kirk Richenberg:

Several of the scenarios presented talks about Parks to which Mr. Molino quickly clarified that it was in reference to industrial not recreational.

Mr. Molino asked the group if there were any other questions at this time and offered to provide his contact information, stating he would be happy to talk with those that may want to further discuss the project.

Supervisor Deming thanked Mr. Molino for his time and closed the informational meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Barefoot
Dep. Town Clerk

