

**ROCKLAND COUNTY SEWER DISTRICT NO. 1
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
February 23, 2023**

Members Present:

R. Diaz
M. Genito
T. Kenny
S. Lehman
M. Specht
J. Tursi

Members Absent:

P. Carroll
K. Connell
G. Hoehmann
A. Simon

Others Present:

M. Saber, M. Dolphin, T. Phillips, E. Bondar, T. West, Y. Eisenbach

Item #1: The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm.

M. Specht: Good evening, everybody. I'll call to order this meeting of Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 Board of Commissioners for today, February 23, 2023. We'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance. I'm going to ask Commissioner Genito to lead us in the pledge. Thank you.

Item #2: Roll Call

M. Specht: I'll ask our secretary to call the roll. Thank you.

Item #3: Public Participation

M. Specht: Is there anybody from the public who would like to speak at this time? Now would be the opportunity. It does not appear that there's anybody here.

Item #4:

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 OF 2023
ADOPT MINUTES OF MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2023**

WHEREAS, S. Lehman offered the following resolution, which was seconded by M. Genito and approved unanimously, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the transcribed Minutes of the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 Meeting of January 26, 2023, as recorded by the Clerk, are hereby adopted.

Item #5:

M. Specht: I'm going to ask our Executive Director to discuss that with the Board.

M. Saber: For this project, EDR was awarded the Sludge Dewatering Project in the amount of \$468,000, initially back in February of 2022. EDR has requested additional monies for design services. They're relating to the original engineering report undersizing the equipment for the solids production which caused design changes. The design changes include the roof having to be raised, and additional modifications needing to be made to the room configurations, plumbing, and electrical. The District requested that EDR provide additional struvite mitigation as part of this project and an HVAC evaluation was done. Based on current codes, additional HVAC improvements will need to be made.

EDR provided cost proposals and options to the District. The District negotiated the terms and conditions with EDR for a cost increase in the amount of \$354,000 which includes the above related items. I recommend that this contract amendment in the amount of \$354,000 for a total contract amount of \$822,800 be awarded to EDR.

M. Specht: Thank you, Mike. Are there any questions for our Executive Director?

Motion to Approve:
Lehman/Tursi

Unan.

February 23, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 12 OF 2023
AUTHORIZING AMENDMENT TO AGREEMENT WITH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN &
RESEARCH, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE, ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES,
D.P.C. FOR ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION FOR
THE SLUDGE DEWATERING PROJECT, CONTRACT RFP-RC-2021-024

WHEREAS, the Sewer District (District) entered into an agreement for \$468,800 dated February 14, 2022 with Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services, D.P.C. (EDR) for Engineering Design Services and Construction Administration for the Sludge Dewatering Project, Contract RFP-RC-2021-024, and,

WHEREAS, the Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project is for the replacement of three centrifuges and all ancillary equipment which includes controls, sludge feed pumps, polymer feed systems, screw conveyors, hoppers, centrate piping, as well as building improvements, and struvite control, and,

WHEREAS, the District's existing sludge dewatering equipment has exceeded its expected useful life and needs to be replaced, and,

WHEREAS, EDR has submitted a proposal for an amendment to the contract on January 17, 2023 in the amount of \$354,000.00 for Engineering Design Services and Construction Administration for the Sludge Dewatering Project for a total contract amount of \$822,800.00, and,

WHEREAS, the amendment will include additional design to include:

- Architectural and structural designs for raising of the roof for the Sludge Dewatering Building.
- Architectural design for new room configurations on the second floor.
- Mechanical design modification for changing from centrifuges to screw presses.
- Design Modifications for plumbing and electrical systems required for raising the roof and changing equipment.
- Additional work related to HVAC, plumbing, and electrical that were identified from the HVAC evaluation.
- Additional struvite mitigation.
- Additional construction administration services for a more complex construction project. requiring additional submittals, progress meetings, payment requests, project coordination, and longer construction period,

and,

WHEREAS, the staff of the Sewer District has reviewed the proposal and negotiated new terms and conditions for the additional engineering services and has found them to be acceptable, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of the Executive Director does hereby accept the proposals from Environmental Design & Research, Landscape Architecture, Engineering & Environmental Services for Engineering Design Services, D.P.C. and Construction Administration for the Sludge Dewatering Project to amend the existing agreement by increasing the contract amount by \$354,000.00 for a total not to exceed the amount of \$822,800.00, and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners, Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 hereby authorize and directs the Executive Director to execute such documents as may be necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution after review by the Staff of the Sewer District and Office of the County Attorney, and, be it,

STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Executive Director is authorized to forward said documents to the County Executive for forwarding to the Legislature for their approval.

Item #6:

M. Saber: The staff at the wastewater treatment plant in Hillburn includes three District employees who are on-call 24/7. The Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Technician I would like to obtain their Grade 3A Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator certification. The District would pay for the travel and lodging. Veolia Water North America – Northeast, LLC, the District’s manager of the wastewater treatment plant in Hillburn, will be paying for the course per our contract with them. I recommend that the District continues to support training our employees so that they can obtain the necessary wastewater operator license to progress into future positions. The cost is not to exceed \$2,300.

Motion to Approve:
Genito/Tursi

Unan.

February 23, 2023

RESOLUTION NO. 13 OF 2023
AUTHORIZATION TO SEND A WASTEWATER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE
TECHNICIAN I TO WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT OPERATOR COURSES AT
MORRISVILLE COLLEGE IN MORRISVILLE, NY

WHEREAS, the wastewater treatment plant in Hillburn is staffed and on call 24/7 with Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Technician II, Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Technician I and Wastewater Operator I, and,

WHEREAS, the District would like to send Operators to courses offered at Morrisville State College to get their Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certifications, and,

WHEREAS, the District has a very difficult time trying to fill the Operator positions as there is a statewide shortage of licensed operators, and,

WHEREAS, these courses and experience from working in various Operator positions will qualify them to take the Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification test, and,

WHEREAS, Veolia Water North America – Northeast, LLC, the District’s manager of the treatment plant in Hillburn, will pay for the courses per the District’s contract with them, and,

WHEREAS, the District will pay for the hotel, travel, and related expenses for a total amount of \$2,300.00, and,

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the District to approve the Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Technician I to attend these courses to be able to obtain a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification since they are familiar with the treatment plant in Hillburn, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners, Rockland County Sewer District No. 1, does hereby authorize the attendance of the Wastewater Operations and Maintenance Technician I to attend Morrisville College to take the courses needed to obtain their Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator Certification, and, be it,

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Veolia Water North America – Northeast, LLC will pay for these courses and the District will pay for hotel, travel and related expenses at a cost not to exceed \$2,300.00, and, be it,

STILL FURTHER RESOLVED, that this training for the staff of the Sewer District No. 1 is subject to approval from the County Executive’s Office.

Item #7:

M. Saber: The County Executive issued an Executive Order regarding RFPs and RFBs. It specifically applies to the departments that report to the executive branch of government. It would be beneficial to the District to comply with the Executive Order to have consistency with other departments for procurement purposes. Therefore, I would recommend that the Board consider adopting this Executive Order so we could implement it at the District.

M. Specht: Very good. Any questions for Mr. Saber?

M. Genito: A quick question, Mike. So, will we still be going out to bid for our own projects or is the County actually doing the bidding for us?

M. Saber: The County will now start to do the bidding for us. They've always done the proposal portion of it for us but now they will also do the bidding portion for us. We will supply them with the documents that we want. They're trying to standardize some of the front end such as insurance, indemnifications, and things like that between all the departments and then we'll have our technical specs on the backend for that. They'll put it out for us and do the bid openings.

M. Genito: Thank you.

M. Saber: You're welcome.

M. Specht: Very good.

**Motion to Approve:
Kenny/Genito**

Unan.

February 23, 2023

**RESOLUTION NO. 14 OF 2023
ADOPTING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2022-02 ISSUED BY THE COUNTY
EXECUTIVE RELATING TO RFB'S AND RFP'S THROUGH
PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, on November 10, 2022, the Rockland County Executive issued Executive Order No. 2022-02: RFB's and RFP's through Purchasing Department, and,

WHEREAS, this Executive Order states that its purpose is to provide compliance with the County Procurement policy and New York State General Municipal Law through a consistent approach to the bidding process across all of the County's departments, and,

WHEREAS, all competitive solicitations (RFBs and RFPs) for all construction, professional services, and other capital projects will be issued and managed through the Department of General Services – Division of Purchasing, and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 has read and reviewed Executive Order No 2 of 2022 and desires the Executive Director and employees of the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 to implement said Executive Order, now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED, that the Executive Director, shall implement Executive Order No. 2 of 2022, as applicable within the Rockland County Sewer District No. 1 and create such policies and procedures within the District to effectuate this resolution.

Item #8: Orangeburg Plant Performance

M. Saber: In your packet is a summary of some of the performance parameters of the wastewater treatment plant in Orangeburg. The CBOD limit of 85% removal had been met since May of 2022 but in December 2022 and January 2023 we did not meet the limit. We did see improvements from December to January and will attempt to continue these improvements in the upcoming months.

M. Specht: Very good. Any questions for our Executive Director?

Item #9: New Business

M. Specht: I believe there's one item under New Business.

M. Saber: I actually have some good news. We closed on the Split Rock property yesterday. We sold it to The New Jersey Land Conservancy. They in turn turned it over to the Ramapo Munsee Nation. There is going to be a public ceremony which I will send out to all the Board members to be invited for March 21st. I believe it's in the morning, but I'll get you all that information. It will be up in Stony Point. They have a facility up there where they'll do the ceremony. The County Executive will also be attending and probably members of his department. I will also be reaching out to the Legislature to let them know because a number of the Legislators have been supportive of the process as well.

M. Specht: That's great news.

J. Tursi: Mike, if I could just ask. I didn't know it was going to happen so quick. Is there language in the contract that they can't sell it or try to sell it, but it reverts back to Rockland County?

M. Saber: There's some language in there that protects us. We have the right of first refusal. The language went back and forth for a while but there's a contract and then there's the deed that was filed so there's either right of first refusal or they have to give us the opportunity to purchase it. It can't be developed or things of that nature. There's land restrictions in the deed.

J. Tursi: Okay. Thank you.

M. Saber: You're welcome.

Motion to Adjourn.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15 OF 2023
ADJOURNMENT**

T. Kenny offered the following resolution, which was seconded by S. Lehman and approved unanimously.

BE IT RESOLVED that the February 23, 2023, Meeting of the Board of Commissioners, Rockland County Sewer District No. 1, is hereby adjourned.

The Board of Sewer Commissioners Meeting adjourned at 6:12pm.

M. Specht: Thank you everybody and good night.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Langan
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners
Rockland County Sewer District No. 1