

MEETING OF THE DRYDEN TOWN BOARD
THURSDAY, May 13, 2021

TB Resolution 2021-_____ : Approve Emergency Repairs for Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility Digesters

WHEREAS, the Ithaca Area Wastewater Treatment Facility (IAWWTF) is owned and operated by the Town of Ithaca, City of Ithaca, and Town of Dryden (“Municipal Owners”), and primary and secondary sludge digestion is a vital process at the IAWWTF, and

WHEREAS, digestion is necessary in dewatering and stabilizing solids for disposal, biogas production for heating and electrical generation, and in the receipt of trucked in wastes, a revenue generating service, and

WHEREAS, on the night of March 11-12, 2021, a blockage caused by excessive debris in the primary digester overflow line caused the liquid level in the tank to surge upwards and lift the digester cover approximately 18 inches, breaking anchor bolts, mounts, and concrete, and

WHEREAS, the immediate blockage was relieved by Drain Brain sewer service and the excess liquid was drained, allowing the primary digester cover to settle back into place but it is no longer anchored in place, and

WHEREAS, the digester will need extensive repairs to the cover, anchorage system, and sludge piping and valves to remove further blockages and restore reliable digester operations, and

WHEREAS, in accordance with standards, the facility cannot operate as designed without the primary digester in operation, and

WHEREAS, the loss of sludge management and treatment provided by this facility presents many concerns including, but not limited to, the inability to adequately maintain appropriate sludge treatment standards, the potential inability to meet plant SPDES permit requirements, the inability to adequately process sludge, increases in trucking, hauling, and disposal costs, the inability to properly receive trucked in waste from regional sources that rely on the IAWWTF for treatment, the potential loss of revenue, and increases in costly plant energy consumption, and

WHEREAS, in a letter (last revised on May 12, 2021) by GHD Consulting Services Inc. (“GHD”), which was hired to evaluate emergency repairs for the primary digester, the opening narrative states that the issues with the primary digester and associated equipment constitute an “emergency situation which requires immediate action” on the part of the IAWWTF, and

WHEREAS, the letter identifies a number of actions that need to be addressed as part of the emergency repair (the “project”), including removal of primary digester contents, repair of the primary digester anchoring system, evaluation, cleaning, inspection and repairs of the piping systems associated with both the primary and secondary digesters, along with work on the supporting appurtenances as well as secondary digester cleaning, inspections and repairs, and

WHEREAS, in a separate May 12, 2021 letter, GHD provided an Opinion of Probable Costs for the project of \$1,500,000, plus a 10% contingency, with a Total Opinion of Costs of \$1,650,000, and

WHEREAS, at its April 28, 2021 special meeting, the IAWWTF's Special Joint Committee ("SJC") adopted a resolution recommending to its municipal boards that they approve said project not to exceed the sum total of \$1,650,000, which total GHD had provided to the SJC as a preliminary estimate (and subsequently confirmed in its May 12, 2021 letter), and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA") and its implementing regulations at 6 NYCRR Part 617, it has been determined by the Dryden Town Board that approval of the project is a Type II action because it constitutes "maintenance or repair involving no substantial changes in an existing structure or facility," and thus approval of the project is not subject to review under SEQRA, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, for the reasons stated above, and pursuant to the provisions of New York General Municipal Law §103(4), the Dryden Town Board finds and determines that a public emergency exists at the IAWWTF arising out of an unforeseen occurrence or condition whereby circumstances affecting the life, health, safety or property of the IAWWTF and the Town of Dryden and other municipalities bordering the southern end of Cayuga Lake require immediate action which cannot await competitive bidding, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Dryden Town Board approves the emergency digesters repairs project, as described in GHD's two May 12, 2021 letters, for a cost, including contingencies, not to exceed the sum total of One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$1,650,000.00), and authorizes the Town Supervisor to execute contracts or contract amendments with MA Bongiovanni, Inc. and GHD Consulting Services Inc. for such project, subject to the approval of the Attorney for the Town, and be it further

RESOLVED, that funds necessary for said project shall be derived from the following sources as determined by the Ithaca City Controller: insurance recovery, serial bonds issued by the City of Ithaca (the Town of Dryden would not co-issue or be liable on the bonds and would reimburse the City of Ithaca through a contract), and grants, with the respective shares of the Municipal Owners' costs allocated as required by the Joint Sewer Agreement (revised December 31, 2003, and last amended February 20, 2019), and be it further

RESOLVED, that the approvals and authorizations in this resolution are contingent on IAWWTF co-owners City of Ithaca and Town of Ithaca approving and authorizing said project and contracts.

Moved:

Seconded:

Vote: Ayes –