

**North Powder City Council Special Meeting
May 23, 2022
6PM New City Hall Building (340E Street)**

Attendance: Councilors Mike Morse, Justin Wright, Joyce Lawyer, Jeff Grende, and Vicki Townsend. City Recorder Beth Wendt, Brett Moore & Brandon Mahon from Anderson Perry, Grant Administrator Nick Ducote and Dave Hoene. Mayor John Frieboes and Councilor Logan McCrae were absent.

Council President Mike Morse called the special meeting for the Wastewater Improvement Project to order. Mike turned the floor over to Brett Moore. Brett noted that we only had 3 contractors that showed any interest in our project and only one of them showed up for the pre-bid tour. The deadline to submit bids was postponed to Thursday, May 25th. Brett thought we'd probably only get one bid because we were so late getting started. Most contractors are already booked for the summer. Once the contract is awarded it will take a few months to get all of the contract paperwork done, but the construction should only take about 8 months to finish. Another issue we are facing is that it's sometimes taking 4 months to 1 year to get parts. There is also a labor shortage right now. Vicki asked how the timeline would affect the DEQ. Brett didn't know. In the past they have been good about working with people. Our NPDES permit expires the end of March 2023 so we are applying for an extension. Once we get rid of the federal permit, the State will be easier to deal with. In the meantime, prices are going through the roof due to supply and demand.

Brett thought we could make adjustments to the project and do the collection system and wetland now and dredge at a later date. He anticipates bids to be high. Nick thought the worst case scenario, we could get another \$50,000 from CDBG. Our grant is good until April 2024 but if we need to, CDBG will frequently extend that for another year. He felt it might be worthwhile to consider a low interest loan. Joyce suggested we talk to ODOT about another grant that she thought was available to small towns. Nick commented that grants take time where as a loan can be done in a couple of months.

Brett interjected that we might want to re-bid this fall. He added that Business Oregon has 50-50 loan/grants that we could look into but he still expected that we wouldn't be able to do the bio-solid removal right now. Jeff wondered if the contractors were aware of our available funds. Though they didn't ask, Nick was pretty sure they knew the ball-park figures as it is a matter of public record.

Dave Hoene asked what happens if the pond freezes. Rick had a lot of issues this past winter due to ice. Brett explained that the problems we're having with pH will no longer be an issue. During the summer the wetland should dry out for storage thru the winter. The fountains should help with evaporation in the summer and will be shut off during the winter.

Joyce was concerned about the high level of solids in the pond now. Brett agreed that they will need to be cleaned out but it can be done later and there are different ways to do it. Right now we have a compliance issue so the collection system and the evaporation pond are a better deal for the funding we have.

Brett reiterated that bids will close on Thursday, May 25th. He would like to meet with the Council again as soon after that to make a decision regarding any bids we receive. A Special Meeting was scheduled for 6:30PM on Tuesday, May 31st. Brett briefly explained that Anderson Perry will open and bids and evaluate them for conformity. Once a decision is made, we will issue an intent to award which requires a 7 day protest period. The contractor will then be given time to get all of his paperwork in order, produce bonds, etc. before the agreement is signed. The Council should be prepared at the Special meeting to authorize the steps.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

Beth Wendt
City Recorder