

Town of Encampment
Workshop Session
December 15, 2022

The Town of Encampment council met in a workshop session on Thursday December 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. at the Encampment Town Hall. Those in attendance were councilmembers Stas Banach, Bill Craig and Shannon Fagan. Also present was council-elect Steve Reichert. Others present were Doreen Harvey, Clerk/Treasurer; Bill Acord Maintenance/Operator and Jon Nelson of North Fork Engineering.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the scope and direction of the Sewer Lagoon Project and to bring new council members up to date. Mr. Nelson gave a recap of the project to date including a short review of the prior bid process, the results that were rejected and started the discussion about moving forward with the potential project schedule and scope. He noted that he had heard that there were concerns that the engineering fees were tied to the bid results and advised the council that was not true. His scope of work does not change with project cost. The fees are based on time and material, not percentage.

He reviewed phase one of the project which includes the screening building, headworks, electrical, instrumentation, mechanical works, monitoring equipment designed with safety in mind and the dredging of the lagoon. He noted that valuable information will be able to be collected once phase one is complete. That will help with the design of the phase two treatment portion. Phase one should be completed in 2023, then design on phase two will begin.

Those present reviewed the plans and discussed areas where savings might happen without compromising the project effectiveness. A line-item review of the unbalanced bids that had been rejected showed big discrepancies in cost projections took place. Discussion ensued about necessary and unnecessary items, safety of operations, potential for corrosion if not properly built, etc. Engineer Nelson noted that the project will also need take into consideration known rule changes that are coming as well as effective long-term monitoring and efficiency. Phase two will be designed to accommodate new rule projections as well so that Encampment is ahead of the game.

The existing UVB building will be repurposed to the cemetery and the town may be able to save money by moving the structure once the equipment is out of it. After extensive discussion on the different elements of the project, it was noted that the materials market seems to have stabilized and that there is a reasonable chance that we may get better bids and prices than the last bid attempt. Councilman Craig noted that the council does not want to cut corners and that the project needs to strengthen the community and stand the test of time.

Other items discussed including the ability to tie the technology in with the water plant, the possible inclusion of a weather station and logistical software and controls. The project timing will tie into the discharge schedule or DEQ will be notified that an improvement project is taking place if we cannot discharge at the correct time. The dredging will also need to be timed with farmers schedule for best nitrogen value.

Mr. Nelson noted that he would take the information as discussed and come to the council meeting in January prepared to discuss going out to bid. Council thanked him for taking the time to attend, noting that it was beneficial for all.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Doreen Harvey, CMC Clerk/Treasurer