

**MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION, CITY COUNCIL,  
AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, HELD WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020 AT 2:00 P.M.  
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, MACKINAC ISLAND, MICHIGAN**

Mayor Doud called the meeting of the Mackinac Island City Council to order at 2:00 p.m.

Chairman Finkel called the meeting of the Mackinac Island Planning Commission to order at 2:02 pm.

Chairman Moskwa called the meeting of the Mackinac Island DPW to order at 2:03 pm

PRESENT: Mary Dufina, Lee Finkel, Trish Martin, Anneke Myers, Jim Pettit, Michael Straus (via phone)  
ABSENT: Ben Mosley  
STAFF: Zoning Administrator, Dennis Dombroski  
CITY COUNCIL: Steven Moskwa, Andrew McGreevy, Kay Hoppenrath, Dennis Bradley, Brian Bailey  
DPW: Michael Olson, Andrew Doud, Neal Liddicoat, Jay Davis, Victor Callewaert

Motion by Myers, second to the Motion by Martin, to approve the Agenda, as written, and place on file. All in favor. Motion carries.

**New Business**

**Future Plans for the Sewer Capacity**

Michael Olson discussed the factors that go into the capacity of a plant. There are three elements that play into the role of the plant: 1) wastewater 2) the collections system and 3) the effluent line and outfall. All three elements need to be taken into consideration. The high lake levels have caused the highest level of inflow and infiltration in years. The plant has a 990,000 gallons/day treatment capacity. The State permit requires daily tests that are reported to the state. McGreevy asked what a normal summer day would be. Davis said 700,000-800,000 gallons/day. Olson pointed out that an important part of the 990,000 gallon problem, is how fast the water is coming in to the plant, in addition to the capacity. McGreevy asked about the effect of rain water. Davis stated 1" of rain raises the level 80,000-100,000 gallons. Olson stated that the DPW is soliciting RFP's from two engineering firms for Inflow and Infiltration plans and studies to get a plan of action to identify and take care of the issues. The firm should be picked by the end of January and the study should begin in the spring. Two issues that DPW is concentrating on is taking care of collection and looking at the onsite 49,000 gallon sludge storage tank and possibly diverting the flow during peak times in the season.

Davis and Moskwa summarized how the plant works. As water comes up the hill from Biddle Point to the plant, the water goes through the new headworks and then it goes to the primary clarifiers. From there it goes to weirs and then pumped up to outdated oxidation towers. It trickles down and forms a biofilm, and helps treat the waste as it comes in to the aeration basin. From the basin it goes back to the final clarifiers and through the chlorine contact tank, then out to the lake.

Olson stated that if we increase the plant capacity above 1 million gallons, the plant class could change from C to B. The class change may require 24 hour staffing and different testing. This is one reason we would like to tackle the collection side of the plant.

Olson stated one of the current problems is head pressure from the high lake level and the heavy water flow. Moskwa stated that problems are being identified through methods like divers and cameras, and being handled.

Moskwa stated biosolids is another element of the process. Currently we send the sludge off island. Olson stated a goal is to compost the sludge on the island and is working with EGLE to accomplish this goal.

McGreevy confirmed that one of their big strategies is to get the lake and storm water out of the system. Myers asked how long do we have? She is concerned that the Planning Commission is approving projects that the plant cannot handle. Pettit stated that in 2003 Mr. Musser, Sr. came up with a 6 year plan to have a plant that could handle 1,200,000 gallons. The plan was not executed. At the time the plan was created there were 100 REU's left. Currently there are 71.1 REU's left. Pettit recommends a new 6 year plan be created. McGreevy asked how the 71.1 REU's are allotted. Doud stated that per year there are 5 commercial, 3 residential and 2 small commercial

REU's available for the next 7 years. If a residential REU is not used it goes into a separate pool to be used for other projects. (The 12 REU's for the new apartment project came from this pool). If a commercial REU is not used it goes back into the commercial pool for future years. Myers pointed out there are some projects that already have REU's allocated. There are 83,000 extra gallons already allocated. Moskwa stated that the REU calculation may be recalculated. Things such as water saving toilets and low flow valves can help reduce water usage. It won't make a big difference but it is being looked at.

Myers summarized the things being done. RFP's are being requested to look at the Inflow and Infiltration, talking to Fishbeck regarding the onsite storage tank for the affluent process, and also the affluent line integrity and possible solutions. Pettit stated that, per DEQ, if a plant is running over 80% it is recommended that upgrades be made. Major upgrades may not be necessary, but something needs to be done. Olson stated that currently, nothing could be taken offline if a repair needed to be made.

Moskwa stated that the plant is able to process our current levels. Biddle Point is a big problem. The department is doing a 5 year capital improvement plan. This plan is for maintaining, not expanding. Olson stated that they plan to develop a plan before the end of the current fiscal year and will be able to move forward with that.

Mayor Doud stated that this was a good meeting and agrees that it is better to be proactive, rather than reactive. She requested that DPW present an expansion plan to the City Council. It was determined that a meeting would be scheduled for the beginning of April to discuss a plan. Martin requested that the current septic systems be part of that meeting. Olson is to get the current REU list to all meeting attendees.

Pettit noted that the Inn at Stonecliffe is requesting 22 REU's because their septic system is failing.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

With no further business there was a Motion by McGreevy, second by Moskwa to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

  
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Lee Finkel, Acting Chairman

  
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Katie Pereny, Secretary