

CITY OF FOLEY, MINNESOTA  
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – January 29, 2019

The Foley City Council held a workshop on January 29, 2019, to discuss the draft wastewater facility plan.

Members Present: Mayor Gerard Bettendorf, Councilmembers Jeff Gondeck, Rosalie Musachio, Gary Swanson and Jack Brosh.

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Jessica Hedin (S.E.H.), Jon Halter (S.E.H.), Sarah Brunn, Mark Pappenfus

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Motion by Gondeck, seconded by Musachio, to approve the agenda. Motion carried, unanimous.

**Discussion on Wastewater Facility Plan**

Jon Halter, City Engineer, introduced wastewater engineer Jessica Hedin who worked with the city to develop the draft wastewater plan.

Hedin began by summarizing the process followed when developing the facility plan. The flows and loads were reviewed and indicated the current system is at capacity. Hedin gave an overview of how the projected growth figures were determined and the requirements of adding capacity. Limits and load projections were also reviewed. Antidegradation was discussed and how that affected the process of developing the facility plan. The city has elected to accept freeze loads as part of the facility plan.

Alternatives discussed included stabilization ponds, mechanical facility, aerated ponds, and regionalization. There was discussion on the stabilization ponds option and pros and cons. The mechanical plant option was discussed with operating costs and an overview on how the process works, which would require more mechanical equipment and higher operator costs. The aerated pond system was reviewed and an overview was provided on how the system would work. The aerated pond system would include a complete decommission of the Birch Pond system. There was discussion on how the aerated pond system could be expanded and meet potential future limits if needed. Lastly, the regionalization option was discussed with an overview of the potential pipe location and costs, including a one-time connection fee of \$6 - \$9 million. In summary, it was concluded the most cost-effective option at the time was the aerated pond option. The impact on rates was reviewed along with the future project schedule.

There was detailed discussion on the options and what should be considered in the future. Detailed discussion occurred on how each option differs in its cost and ability to handle future limits. Future limits are of great concern for the City as the MPCA is always reviewing and adding items to operating permits every five years. Although more expensive, a majority of the council expressed interest in the regionalization option as it has the best potential of providing long-term stability for the city. The council also decided to keep a mechanical facility and aerated pond option on the list for now and gather more information.

The council directed staff to obtain more information on rates with the other options and get information on having another engineering firm review the plan to get another opinion.

**Other Business**

The council was asked to find a representative to serve on the Region TA Board. Motion by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck, to recommend Brosh to the board. Motion carried, unanimous.

The council was also updated on a snow removal complaint in Golf Court.

Motion to adjourn at 8:01 p.m. by Swanson, seconded by Gondeck. Motion carried, unanimous.

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Sarah A. Brunn, Administrator