

REGULAR meeting of the Board of Public Works was held on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2007, at 4 :05 p.m. at the City Building, 82 Main St., Hornell, N.Y.

PRESENT: Honorable Shawn D. Hogan, Mayor; Commissioner Joseph Bob; Assistant Public Works Superintendent Mitch Cornish; Water Filtration Plant Chief Operator Leonard Fucci; Water Pollution Control Plant Chief Operator Richard Dunning II; and, City Clerk Robert J. Roberts.

AND FROM THE MEDIA: Jen Carpenter of The Evening Tribune.

ALSO PRESENT: Steve Metzger of LaBella Associates.

ABSENT: Commissioner Michael Fucci and Public Works Superintendent David Oakes.

By
Bob/Hogan:

RESOLVED, that the minutes of the last meeting held Oct. 25, 2007, be approved as read.

Carried – Ayes all (2)

Absent – Fucci (1)

By
Bob/Hogan:

RESOLVED, that the Reports of Department Heads be approved and ordered filed.

Carried – Ayes all (2)

Absent – Fucci (1)

ON THE QUESTION:

Mayor Hogan announced that a leak-detection company hired by the City has found a major leak on a private line off a public right-of-way by the Sunoco gas station in Webbs Crossing. The leak amounts to about 200,000 gallons per day, which Mayor Hogan said accounts for much of the monthly discrepancy seen earlier. Other, smaller leaks bring the total close to 250,000 gallons per day, Mayor Hogan said. Filter Plant Chief Operator Fucci suggested having the leak-detection company inspect the City every two years, to which Mayor Hogan agreed. Due to its location, the Mayor added, the Webbs Crossing leak may not have been found for a long time if not for the detection company. “As bad as it is, I am relieved we found the root cause to the problem of water loss,” Mayor Hogan said.

By
Bob/Hogan:

RESOLVED, that claims in the amount of \$392,762.84 be approved and paid as

audited.

Carried – Ayes all (2)

Absent – Fucci (1)

MISCELLANEOUS:

- Mayor Hogan and WPCP Chief Operator Dunning discussed the impact of the Susquehanna River Basin and the Chesapeake Bay Initiative. The City faces “pretty onerous” regulations in its new SPDES permit, the Mayor said, as to what kind of tests are done, their frequency, and their cost. One test alone could add \$23,000 to the WPCP budget, Mayor Hogan said. Chief Operator Dunning talked with Stuart Thomas, DEC Region 8 representative, and found the permit may be more restrictive than it should be. “There are downstream communities that take much more industrial waste than we do and have less onerous [regulations],” Mayor Hogan said. Chief Operator Dunning said a toxicity test would strain his five-man crew because of time spent on sampling and packing shipments. The DEC’s Thomas advised Chief Operator Dunning to put his concerns in writing to Albany, which he did, in hopes of having an engineering review of the SPDES permit. Chief Operator Dunning also said the City plant failed its first test under test to measure phosphorous discharge because “our plant is not set up to do this type of treatment.” Configuring the plant for phosphorus compliance is estimated to cost \$7 million, he said. Moreover, farms spread phosphorous-laced fertilizer on fields, which could run off to water. “If you did a cost-benefit analysis,” Chief Operator Dunning said, “the DEC would find a lot more concentration on farms. [But] we are the ones who have to clean up our act to the nth degree.” Mayor Hogan asked about installing a self-contained filtering system at the end of the outflow system to clean water going into the river, but Chief Operator Dunning said that system’s container would not be enough to handle the 2 million gallons-per-day flow from the plant. “This looks mostly like bad news – a lot of work and a lot of expense,” Chief Operator Dunning said in summary.

By

Bob/Hogan:

RESOLVED, that this meeting adjourn at 4:25 p.m.

Carried – Ayes all (2)

Absent – Fucci (1)

Respectfully submitted

Robert J. Roberts
City Clerk