

A Work Session of the City Council of the City of Litchfield was held in the City Council Chambers at the City Hall on Tuesday, May 30, 2023, commencing at 5:00 p.m.

In attendance:

Mayor	Ron Dingmann	Present
Council Member-at-Large	Malinda Larson	Present at 5:28pm
Council Member Ward I	Eric Mathwig	Present at 5:08pm
Council Member Ward II	Darlene Kotelnicki	Present
Council Member Ward III	Betty Allen	Present
Council Member Ward IV	John Carlson	Present
Council Member Ward V	Sara Miller	Present
City Administrator	Dave Cziok	Present
Assistant City Administrator	Joyce Spreiter	Present
Operations Engineer	Mike Geers	Present
City Engineer	Chuck DeWolf	Present

I. WASTEWATER FACILITY PLANNING HISTORICAL REFRESHER –

A. TEAM-MEMBER RECAP –

City Administrator Cziok provided background education and experience of administration, engineers, and wastewater operators who have been part of the team in the planning process.

B. WHAT NEEDS TO BE SOLVED? –

1. Reduced Phosphorus Limit:

City Administrator Cziok reported that the total phosphorous effluent limit is a reduction from 1MG/L to .1MG/L. He discussed the nature of phosphorous removal including the cost to remove and the cost of increased biosolids. He provided history on MPCA phosphorous limits.

2. Biosolids Management:

The wastewater plant reached design capacity with increased biosolids loading and deferred this investment in 2009 and 2015. City Administrator Cziok said rates are in place to deal with a \$10M project with the investment anticipated to be much higher now.

3. Maintenance Needs:

City Administrator Cziok discussed maintenance needs and the inability to shut parts of the operation down to do maintenance with meeting the limits with the current loading.

4. FDA Expansion:

Expansion needs were estimated, and a pretreatment permit was issued in 2009 with capacity limits unchanged since 2009, Cziok shared. He reported that the permit is not enforceable in that the City wouldn't shut down FDA's operations and impact their business. He shared that the draft permit included contains the same limits.

C. CURRENT STATUS –

1. Treatment Plant Performance:

Operations Engineer Geers discussed data relating to the increase in FDA CBOD. He reviewed the FDA loading from June 2020 to present as provided in a graph format. He discussed the July 2021 effluent violation and the impacts with effluent compliance in 10 days. Geers provided the operations and maintenance current conditions. He reported the February 2023 effluent violation with compliance in 4 days.

2. MPCA Expectations:

City Administrator Cziok reported MPCA discussions taking place and the need to get an interim SIU Agreement in place. He discussed fines, fees, and penalties to ensure compliance is a priority.

D. FACILITY MODELING PLAN –

City Engineer DeWolf discussed the purpose of the Facility Plan, project need, the existing treatment facility, and recommended improvements. He reported that FDA is exploring their own pretreatment facility and shared FDA pretreatment scenarios. Funding sources were explained.

FDA President and CEO Huffman provided an update on where FDA is at and shared concerns about the project. No formal action was taken.

II. ADJOURNMENT –

The Work Session adjourned at 6:25 p.m. by unanimous consent.