

REGULAR MEETING OF THE OACOMA TOWN BOARD
September 18, 2023

The Oacoma Town Board met in regular session at 7:00 P.M. on September 18, 2023, in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center. Board members present were Gary Dominiack, President; Richard Kirkpatrick, Vice President; Kyle Fuchs; Robin Hutmacher; and Justin Rabern. Also present were Valerie Moore, Finance Officer; Weston Blasius and Coby Nofziger, Banner Associates; Roger Twamley; and Jane Freeman.

MINUTES

Motion by Fuchs, second by Rabern, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on September 6, 2023. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER FACILITY PLAN

Weston Blasius and Coby Nofziger, engineers with Banner Associates, presented a draft of a Wastewater Facility Plan for the Town of Oacoma prepared by Banner Associates following their comprehensive review of Oacoma's wastewater system facilities including the collection system, lift stations and treatment/lagoon facilities. The Wastewater Facility Plan identifies needs for future improvements and provides technical data to support applications for financial assistance needed to complete certain projects. The plan identified repairs and improvements to Oacoma's lagoons and replacement of the downtown lift station as the highest priorities to ensure reliable wastewater operations. Other recommended future improvements include open-cut pipe replacement for portions of the collection system at \$5.1 million, cured-in-place pipelining for portions of the collection system at \$1.4 million, and wastewater treatment expansions/improvements at \$4.7 million.

Blasius and Nofziger reported the probable costs for the recommended priority projects are \$1,337,000 for lagoon repairs and improvements and \$1,268,000 to replace the downtown wet well/dry well style lift station with a submersible style lift station. The town can apply for funding assistance from SD Dept. of Agriculture and Natural Resources (DANR) in the form of a revolving loan at 3.25% interest over 30 years and may be eligible for grants or principal forgiveness if certain qualifications are met. If the recommended projects are fully financed by a loan, the annual debt service payment is estimated to be \$137,236. That debt service apportioned among Oacoma's wastewater customers results in an estimated debt surcharge of \$53.95 per month per wastewater customer in addition to the monthly service rate. The engineers reported the proposed project would require a three-year period beginning with funding requests in October 2023 and ending with project completion in September 2026.

Blasius reported the Wastewater Facility Plan draft is subject to DANR's review and approval before being finalized and the town will need to conduct a public hearing prior to initiating any proposed project identified in the plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Time was reserved for public comments pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1. Jane Freeman inquired about the compliance deadline date for the nuisance property located at 100 N Main Avenue. Dominiack reported the deadline was extended to November 1, 2023, based on a submitted appeal.

STATE WATER PLAN APPLICATION

The board discussed the water and wastewater projects recommended in the facility plans prepared by Banner Associates.

Rabern offered a recommendation to research the option to connect to West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System. The estimated cost to install 16.5 miles of 8-inch pipe from Reliance to Oacoma to provide 265 gallons per minute (382,000 gallons per day) to Oacoma is approximately \$6.9 million. This option would eliminate the need to extend the raw water intake line and perform substantial future water treatment plant improvements.

Alternatively, to maintain Oacoma's independent water treatment system will require extending the raw water intake line to the river channel. Future repairs and improvements will also be needed in the Water Treatment Plant. Banner Associates provided cost estimates for options to rehabilitate the existing plant, expand and improve the existing plant, or to build a completely new water treatment plant. All cost estimates are:

Extending raw water intake line to river channel:	\$6.3 million
Rehabilitate existing water treatment plant:	\$2.9 million
Expand/Improve existing water treatment plant:	\$4.8 million
Construct new water treatment plant:	\$6.8 million

The board discussed the wastewater projects recommended as priorities for completion including lagoon improvements estimated at \$1.34 million and replacement of the downtown lift station for \$1.27 million.

The deadline for submission of a State Water Plan Application is October 1, 2023. This application does not commit the town to any project or funding requirement but only notifies DANR of potential funding needs over the next 2 years. The town board will conduct public hearings before determining which projects to proceed upon.

Motion by Rabern, second by Kirkpatrick, to authorize submission of a State Water Plan application for extension of the raw water intake line at an estimated cost of \$6,257,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirkpatrick, second by Fuchs, to authorize submission of a State Water Plan application for a connection to the West River/Lyman-Jones Rural Water System at an estimated cost of \$6,890,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Rabern, second by Hutmacher, to authorize submission of a State Water Plan application for Wastewater Treatment Facility structure improvements at an estimated cost of \$1,337,000. Motion carried.

Motion by Kirkpatrick, second by Rabern, to authorize submission of a State Water Plan application for a new submersible lift station at an estimated cost of \$1,268,000. Motion carried.

WATER & SEWER RATES

The board reviewed historical reports of water and sewer rates, annual trends of related fund balances and a comparison of water use and sales by customer type. Discussion was held on future water and wastewater projects needed in Oacoma. Motion by Hutmacher, second by Kirkpatrick, to adopt the following rates effective with the January 2024 billing statements. Motion carried.

<u>Residential:</u>	Water - \$45.00 minimum for first 5,000 gallons plus \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons usage over the minimum.
	Sewer - \$35.00 flat monthly rate.
<u>Commercial:</u>	Water - \$60.00 minimum for first 5,000 gallons plus \$6.00 per 1,000 gallons usage over the minimum.
	Sewer - \$47.00 minimum for first 5,000 gallons plus \$5.25 per 1,000 gallons usage over the minimum (based on water meter usage).

2024 APROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 2023-02

The second reading was held for Ordinance No. 2023-02, Appropriations Ordinance for Fiscal Year 2024 for the Town of Oacoma. Motion by Rabern, second by Fuchs, to approve the second reading and adoption of Ordinance No. 2023-02. Voting aye: Dominiack, Kirkpatrick, Fuchs, Hutmacher, and Rabern. Voting nay: none. Motion carried. (Ordinance No. 2023-02 published separately.)

EQUIPMENT

The following quotes for a used Bobcat skid loader were submitted for consideration: Cook Implement, 2015 model year, 650 series with bucket and 960 hours, \$46,000; and Riverview Chevrolet/Bobcat, 2016 model year, 650 series with bucket and 779 hours, \$44,970. Motion by Kirkpatrick, second by Hutmacher, to purchase the used 2016 Bobcat skid loader from Riverview for \$44,970. Motion carried.

NUISANCE COMPLAINT

A written nuisance complaint was filed on property located at 405 W 2nd Street in Oacoma. A courtesy letter was mailed to the property owner on September 13 requesting improvements by October 20.

RECONCILIATION OF CASH ASSETS

Dominiack verified the Reconciliation of Cash Assets for the month of August.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion by Hutmacher, second by Rabern, to enter executive session at 8:30 P.M. pursuant to SDCL 1-25-2 (1) for discussion of personnel matters. Motion carried. Executive session ended at 8:40 P.M.

PERSONNEL

Motion by Rabern, second by Fuchs, to authorize \$0.25/hour wage increases, effective September 16, 2023, to city employees, Kenobbie and Waugh, for each operator certification exam already passed and authorize additional \$0.25/hour wage increases upon the employee passing future operator certification exams. New wage rates effective September 16, 2023, are \$21.25 for Zach Kenobbie and \$21.75 for Weston Waugh.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Hutmacher, second by Rabern to adjourn. Motion carried. The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 2, 2023, beginning at 7:00 P.M. in Meeting Room #2 at the Oacoma Community Center.

Gary Dominiack, President

Valerie J. Moore, Finance Officer

Published once, September 27, 2023, at a total cost of \$__ and may be viewed free of charge at <https://www.sdpublicnotices.com/>.