

**Hooksett Sewer Commission
Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2022**

INITIAL	COMMENTS
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This meeting was called to order at 12:00pm. Present were Chairman Sidney Baines, Commissioner Richard Bairam, Commissioner Robert Duhaime, Superintendent Ken Conaty, Assistant Superintendent John Clark and Guy Beloin.

Approve and Sign Manifest

Approve Minutes: Commissioner Richard Bairam made motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 1, 2022. Commissioner Robert Duhaime seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Read Correspondence

Financial Report: Guy came in to give a quick overview of the Hooksett Sewer Commission accounts. Commissioner Richard Bairam made motion to transfer \$30,000 from the Hooksett Sewer Checking to the Hooksett Sewer Commission Trust Plant and Composting account, for three months ended December 31, 2021 of fiscal year 2022 savings from renewable energy system. Commissioner Robert Duhaime seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Scheduled Appointments: None

Superintendent Conaty's Report:

Plant:

- The Hooksett Wastewater Treatment Facility is using a new lab in Vermont for Bioassay testing
- The first BIOBOT program samples went out February 7th & 14th
- The NHDES inspection was performed on Friday February 11th.

TIF Project:

- TIF Meeting is scheduled for February 17th at 4:00pm

Solar:

- Superintendent Conaty presented solar graphs for the Sewer Commission to look over on the measured energy from the plants solar field.

Dewatering:

- Recalculating numbers for proper press sizing. Superintendent Conaty is meeting with Underwood today after the sewer commission meeting is adjourned.

- Superintendent Conaty refilled with the NHDES for ARPA funding

Asset Management:

- Superintendent Conaty met with John Jackman and is processing the details that they went over

Other:

- Primex online training is set to be done this month
- Superintendent Conaty presented an article in regards to the plans for Manchester NH solar array project (see attachment 1).
- The Sewer Commission has had 20 signs printed to post around town to issue support for articles 4, 5 and 6 (see attachment 2).
- HB 398 Senate finance hearing is today at 1:00pm. Superintendent Conaty sent a letter of support (see attachment 3).
- Superintendent Conaty discussed the Warrant Articles deliberative session that was held on Saturday February 5, 2022.
- CMOM report is to be filed in March. Superintendent Conaty has a draft already completed and shared it with the Sewer Commission.
- The new intrusion alarm was started on Friday last week.
- Superintendent Conaty met with the owner of the Otterson Property's representative to go over costs and infrastructure needed.

Old Business: TIF update every third Tuesday of the month


New Business: The next Sewer Commission Meeting is March 1, 2022

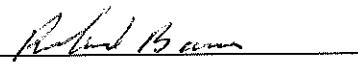
Non-Public Session: None

Public Input: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Robert Duhaime made motion to adjourn at 1:55pm. Commissioner Richard Bairam seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,


Kim Langlois
Billing Clerk


Richard Bairam
Clerk



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DIGITAL COMMUNITIES

Plans for Manchester, N.H., Solar Array Project Move Forward

A committee on Monday approved a memorandum of understanding, authorizing American Capital Energy to plan and arrange financing for a solar array at the city's landfill, along with smaller arrays on the roofs of selected buildings.

October 21, 2014 • Ted Siefer, The New Hampshire Union Leader (TNS)

An aldermen's committee has given the green light to a company that wants to build a sprawling solar panel array at the city landfill that could become the largest such project in the state.

The aldermen's Special Committee on Energy Contracts and Related Activities on Monday approved a memorandum of understanding with American Capital Energy authorizing the company to plan and arrange financing for the landfill project, along with smaller arrays on the roofs of the Municipal Complex and selected school buildings.

All together, the projects could generate 3.2 megawatts, six times the power of the largest existing solar panel array in the state, at the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport. In July, town officials in Peterborough approved construction of a solar panel installation at its wastewater treatment plant that is projected to generate slightly less than 1 megawatt. (By most estimates, a megawatt can power between 200-500 homes.)

The landfill array would be built over the former city dump, a 93-acre site between Dunbarton Road and Interstate 293 in the northwest corner of the city.

American Capital Energy would be responsible for all the costs associated with planning and building the facilities; in turn it would be allowed to sell the energy harnessed by the panels on the market. The city would look to be paid \$100,000 a year for use of the landfill property and to defray at least 15 percent of its electricity costs at the municipal buildings where panels are placed, according to city Facilities Manager Kevin O'Maley.

Mayor Ted Gatsas strongly backs the plan.

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"Although this will not be a windfall for the city, there will be a modest financial benefit for us," Gatsas wrote in a letter to the aldermen.

More important, Gatsas continued, the project would put Manchester "in a leadership position

for these type of projects. We took the lead on LED street lighting. Our leadership in these areas of technology will benefit the city and it will eventually help other communities follow us."

1

The city is replacing all of its streetlights with efficient LED bulbs.

Key to the project is winning a \$2.3 million state grant funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, according to company officials who spoke at Monday's committee meeting.

Hank Ouimet, the managing director of Renewable Energy, which is working with American Capital Energy on the proposal, said his team had already met with state environmental officials on the landfill project.

"It's a very suitable site," Ouimet said. "There's not another landfill project in New Hampshire at the moment."

American Capital Energy has built and managed numerous solar projects across the country.

PSNH was involved in a similar plan to build a solar array at the landfill in 2010, but it did not come to fruition.

The aldermen on Monday had a mostly favorable response to the proposal.

Alderman-At-Large Dan O'Neil stressed that the city was not entering a contract with the company and that supporting the MOU did not obligate the city to move forward with the plan.

Ward 12 Alderman Keith Hirschmann asked about the possibility of solar glare, particularly for drivers on I-293.

Ouimet said drivers going north would not be able to see the panels and southbound drivers would only see the back of the installation. He added that the panels are designed to be "anti-glare."

Due to glare problems, the solar array at the Manchester airport had to be repositioned earlier this year at a cost of \$1.9 million.

If the financing and necessary approvals are secured, company officials said work on the landfill project could begin in nine months to a year.

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The full board of aldermen is expected to approve the MOU at its meeting Tuesday.

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Manchester is only the second city in the nation to utilize ocean-bound recycled plastic in their recycling carts. The OceanCore carts will replace new carts for Manchester residents across the city.

"We're thrilled to be the second city in the nation to partner with Rehrig Pacific in using their 100% recyclable cart," said **Mayor Joyce Craig**.

"Distributing recycling carts composed of reusable ocean-bound plastics is another way the City of Manchester is working to ensure our community remains healthy and sustainable for future generations."

"We are undoubtedly excited to be taking another step into sustainability by issuing Rehrig Pacific's OceanCore carts for our curbside collection," stated **Chaz Newton, Solid Waste and Environmental Programs Manager, Department of Public Works**. "Partnering with Rehrig Pacific on their OceanCore cart signifies the commitment that the City possesses to achieve our waste goals."

The OceanCore cart is made from a blend of 40 percent post-consumer recycled material, 10 percent of which is recycled ocean-bound plastic found in and near lakes, beaches, and waterways on the way to the ocean.

Utilizing OceanCore carts is one of many ways the City is continuing to invest in environmentally-friendly practices and has made significant progress in recent years.

This includes the City's recent sale of \$46.5 million in green bonds, which will finance a portion of the City's program to remove combined sewer overflows into the Merrimack River, resulting in cleaner water. These green bonds must be used to finance projects that have a positive environmental impact.

In addition, The City of Manchester recently finalized construction of a solar array on the former landfill. This project is now the largest municipal solar array in the state with more than 8,000 panels that will supply approximately 3.8 million kilowatt-hours of clean energy to the power grid on an annual basis.

Over the past few years, the City has also added energy-efficient buses to the Manchester Transit Authority fleet, cutting emissions from diesel buses by 96% and converting city lights to LED, reducing the city budget and eliminating 2,000 tons of CO2 emissions.

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Mayor Craig, Department of Public Works Announces Solar Array at Former Landfill is Fully Operational

Published: 01/11/2022 8:15 AM

Solar array is now the largest municipal array in the state

Today, Mayor Joyce Craig, the Manchester Department of Public Works and partners announced the City of Manchester's newest solar array is operational after over two years of preparation and planning.

This project is now the largest municipal solar array in the state with more than 8,000 panels that will supply 3.8 million kilowatt hours of clean energy to the power grid on an annual basis.

Covering 12 acres of underutilized land at the former Dunbarton Road landfill, the solar array is expected to offset more than 2,700 metric tons of CO2 per year—equivalent to the emissions from burning three million pounds of coal.

"We began this project back in 2018, and after years of planning I'm thrilled to announce the solar array is operational," said **Mayor Joyce Craig**. "The electricity produced by these solar panels will be enough to power hundreds of homes annually across the city. I want to thank the hard work of the Manchester Department of Public Works and our partners, for their commitment to this project."

"The Department of Public Works is proud to be part of another sustainable initiative," added **Tim Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director**. "When coupled with energy efficiency initiatives, Energy Star compliance, and participating in the EPA Better Buildings Challenge, this project represents the latest example of the City's forward-thinking regarding conservation."

In September 2021, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm visited the site, praising the decision to place solar panels on non-productive land.

Key partners in this project, in addition to the Manchester Department of Public Works include Kearsarge Energy, Competitive Energy Services, AEGIS and Kingsbury Co.

IMPORTANT VOTE!
Vote YES on
Articles 4, 5, & 6
Wastewater Improvements
Vote on March 8th

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Hooksett Wastewater Treatment Facility

Board of Sewer Commissioners

1 Egawes Drive
Hooksett, NH 03106
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February 11, 2022

Members of the Finance Committee
State Senate
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Delivered by email

Re: HB 398 — Funding for Eligible Wastewater Projects

Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Hooksett Sewer Commission and Hooksett Wastewater Treatment Facility. We strongly urge the NH House Finance Committee to continue support of HB 398 which authorizes the appropriation to the Department of Environmental Services for funding eligible wastewater projects. We are one of the facilities that will receive funding from this bill. We are on the list of "forgotten eleven" projects that did not get that funding in the past. The projects have long been completed and paid for. This funding would allow us to continue to replace worn out infrastructure in the future,

The Town of Hooksett is a committed steward of the environment. The stretch of the Merrimack River that passes the treatment plant is highly utilized for recreation in the summer. Thank you for considering our comments. I would be honored to answer any questions you may have of us on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Conaty
Superintendent
Hooksett Wastewater Treatment Facility
Ken.hooksettwwastewater@gmail.com