

## Flow meter may drastically change lagoon data

Written by Deb Egenberger  
Thursday, 18 October 2012 14:07 -

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Two faulty valves on pipes that carry waste into Brady's sewer lagoon could have caused inaccurate flow information during seepage tests.

As the village trustees work to meet compliance orders from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, learning of the defective equipment brought a ray of hope.

Levi Nelson, a representative with Snell Services of North Platte, told trustees during their regular monthly meeting on Oct. 10 that he found two check valves between the holding tank and the lagoon were either stuck or broken.

"There is waste pumping into the lagoon but because those valves are faulty, they're allowing it to come back in," Nelson said. "You've got flow going back and forth so what was showing up in your test data is potentially inaccurate."

Nelson said the valve issue was found when Snell Services workers were taking measurements and checking specifications for a flow meter that will be installed on the discharge unit.

Because wastewater is back-flowing into the lift station, the pumps have to work twice as hard and previous discharge flow readings are likely wrong.

The discharge flow meter, purchased by the village to provide information to help determine necessary lagoon square footage, will be installed within the next month.

"So the valves could have thrown off a whole lot of data," said trustee Todd Roe.

Reed Miller of Miller & Associates of Kearney, the village's engineer working on the lagoon project, said installation of the new flow meter could significantly change data and show the village needs less lagoon area than previously determined.

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Miller also presented the board with two bids for closed-circuit televising of village sewer lines.

Trustees awarded the bid to Johnson Service Co. of Kearney for a unit price of \$21,022 with the possibility of additional costs for root cutting.

He anticipates the work to be done in the spring.

In other action, trustees awarded a paving bid to Steele Construction of North Platte for the intersection of Commercial and Mathewson streets.

Brent Burkland of TC Engineering of North Platte presented bids from Jackson Concrete of Hershey, Steele Roofing & Construction of North Platte and Cement Products of North Platte.

Although higher than the low bid by \$301, trustees awarded the bid to Steele Roofing & Construction for \$31,906.

The project will include 8-inch cement through the intersection with ditch reshaping and culvert work for drainage. It is expected to begin in the spring.

In other business, the board:

agreed to get bids for filling cracks and holes in a small portion of pavement on Popleton Street that was not included in a similar project last fall.

discussed a previous decision to seek loan funding to purchase land for a new fire hall. Board chairman Jeff Miller said borrowing funds will cost the village 3% to 5% in interest while money

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for the purchase is available in village accounts. Trustees will vote to change the source of funding at their next meeting.

heard a concern about the pedestrian crossing of U.S. Highway 30 at the walking overpass and agreed to investigate the possibility of having a flashing yellow light there during school hours.

gave Tami Palmer permission to use the Community Center free of charge for a fund raiser Oct. 26 to help pay expenses for her daughter, Josie, who will be playing in the NoKaOi Volleyball Showcase in Honolulu in July.

awarded a bid of \$261.17 annually to Jason Axthelm for lease of the old landfill property. Two other lower bids were received.

approved on final reading two ordinances. One changes the zoning assignment on Duane Davis' property at Commercial and Mathewson from residential to commercial, allowing him to expand. The other vacates a portion of Short Street, west of South Vine, and an adjacent north-south alley.

ratified a contract with Jason Axthelm for the purchase of the old city hall building for \$2,651.

chose to accept bids for a new or used pay loader.

authorized utility supervisor Troy Chestnutt to raise the stop sign recently installed at Market and Popleton Streets to 7 feet to make it more visible.