

Continued Council Meeting—February 23, 2015

The continued meeting of the Council of the Town of Altavista was held in the Council Chambers of the J.R. Burgess Municipal Building, 510 Seventh Street on February 23, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

1. Mayor Mattox called the meeting to order and presided.

Council members

present:

Mayor Michael Mattox
Mrs. Micki Brumfield
Mrs. Beverley Dalton
Mr. Charles Edwards
Mr. Tracy Emerson
Mr. Timothy George
Mr. Jay Higginbotham

Also present:

Mr. J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Town Manager
Mr. David Garrett, Public Works/Utilities Director
Mr. John Eller, Town Attorney
Mrs. Mary Hall, Administration

2. Mayor Mattox advised Gay and Neel, Inc were present to provide Council with their analysis of the various remedial methods.

Mr. Trevor Kimzey, P.E., Gay and Neel, LLC addressed Council and introduced, Mr. Adam Meurer, CHMM, PWS, and Mr. Garnett Williams, P.G, ECS. He noted the focus of the analysis is on remediation, exploring the list of remediation options that Council has been considering.

Mr. Meurer addressed Council advising their job was to explore the different options on how to remediate the pond. He noted as going through this information he would like to know what factors are important to Council. Mr. Meurer presented Council with a power point presentation, noting the different factors that were considered included: Protection of human health and the environment, limit future liability and risk reduction, regulatory acceptance, cost, timeframe and long term effectiveness. Nine alternatives have been considered. Mr. Meurer reviewed the pros and cons of each of the alternatives which are: no action, dig and haul, thermal desorption, in-situ bio remediation, phytoremediation, UV destruction, living liner/cap, standard cap and in-situ stabilization/solidification.

Mr. Kimzey stated they were trying to put the facts in front of Council as to what has been proven and accepted within the VRP and evaluate things in light of the regulatory framework.

Mayor Mattox asked Mr. Kimzey to explain what the letter of closure does.

Mr. Kimzey advised from the VRP is a certificate of completion and that says that the DEQ agrees that you voluntarily remediated to the point that the risk to human health in the environment is acceptable; provides immunity from the DEQ and the EPA.

Mr. Williams also mentioned a memorandum agreement from the EPA and DEQ which tells them if you go through this process that you allow certain potential liability protection.

Mayor Mattox questioned the potential liability.

Mr. Williams responded it could be civil or regulatory.

Mr. George asked if they had reviewed Dr. Licht's phytoremediation program.

Mr. Meurer responded they have and that it had not been employed very often for PCB remediation.

Continued Council Meeting—February 23, 2015

Mr. George mentioned Dr. Licht was at the pond last year and according to a press release in the *News and Advance* testing of a plot showed a drop in PCBs from 500 parts per million to less than 30 parts per million in 7 months with phytoremediation.

Mr. Meurer stated cost and time is also a big factor with phytoremediation. He felt these two factors are why this is not used across the industry. He mentioned DEQ's concern was the liner being punctured with the roots as the trees grow and the PCBs mobilize into the ground water and river.

Mr. Edwards questioned some of the cost projections and asked what RTSM stands for.

Mr. Meurer explained RTSM stands for Remedial Technology Screen Matrix; provides a dollar value per ton of soil.

Mr. Edwards advised an environmental contractor in Lynchburg gave him a price based on the size and depth of the sludge of approximately \$11.3 million when incineration through thermal desorption is utilized and more for dig and haul.

Mr. Williams cautioned cost from these technologies can be all over the map and will certainly be on the order of millions of dollars.

Mr. Edwards referred to the cost of the phytoremediation and felt the cost reported was excessive; he noted he had calculated the cost of building a berm and planting trees on a test site and it was much less than the cost they have in the report.

Mr. Edwards referred to dewatering stating it is his impression DEQ will not approve dewatering.

Mr. Meurer stated there may be ways to detain the water on site.

Mr. Edwards asked at the end of the day, who has to be satisfied, DEQ or EPA.

Mr. Meurer stated the town is presently enrolled in the VRP program which is DEQ. EPA has that memorandum of understanding that as long as you get through the DEQ process the EPA doesn't care.

Mr. Edwards asked would they concur if there is approval from the EPA the town would not have to comply with the DEQ regulations.

Mr. Meurer agreed stating it is a voluntary program so the Town does not have to go through the DEQ process.

Mr. Edwards asked if the ultimate is the EPA.

Mr. Meurer agreed if the Town were to get out of the DEQ program.

Mr. Edwards referred to dewatering and asked how the pond could be capped if there was no dewatering. He also noted by capping the pond the town would lose the use of it.

Mr. Meurer stated some numbers were run after the August meeting and they would have to go back to those calculations.

Mr. Edwards referred to phytoremediation and felt that was the lowest cost alternative. He noted the EPA sent an email encouraging the Town to continue with the method.

Mr. Cogsdale noted he is expecting information from EPA later this week.

Mr. Kimzey presented Council with the Engineer Summary which contained strategic considerations for review.

Continued Council Meeting—February 23, 2015

Mr. Higginbotham referred to the comment that this analysis was based on DEQ guidance. He noted experiments have taken place with different techniques and areas have been bermed off and tested with results of less than 50 parts per one million. He asked for recommendations on what should be done with those areas.

Mr. Meurer stated those areas of less than 50 parts per one million would not have to be capped.

Mr. Higginbotham asked if there was any reason not to put down a layer of soil and cap with some type of vegetation.

Mr. Williams responded certainly grass to establish a cap.

Mr. Higginbotham referred to the tree roots puncturing the liner. He has referred this to Dr. Licht who stated this is a fallacy; roots work down into the solids and dewater. Dr. Licht sees no issue with the roots puncturing the liner.

Mr. Higginbotham noted the Town is part of a superfund grant that was applied for through the University of Iowa to research the pond. He felt if EPA funds the research, the Town doesn't have a choice but to move forward. Mr. Higginbotham referred to a comment made by IALR that the "letter of closure" meant nothing and if something happens the town could still be liable for it.

Mr. Williams stated closure through the cap is the Town's responsibility to make sure it is not breached.

Mayor Mattox thanked Gay and Neel, LLC for their time.

Mr. Edwards asked if Council wants to remediate or not remediate. He stated filling the pond with rocks is not a way to help the environment.

3. Adjournment

Mayor Mattox asked if there was anything else to bring before Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Michael E. Mattox, Mayor

J. Waverly Coggsdale, III, Clerk