

Lagoon issue doesn't stink quite so bad anymore

Written by Deb Egenberger
Wednesday, 20 February 2013 19:08 -

With repaired valves and a new flow meter, a couple of months worth of data shows Brady's sewer lagoon issues are not likely as extensive as originally thought.

Wastewater pumped into the lagoon appears to be roughly half of the 60,000 gallons per day that was measured when repairs were mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality three and a half years ago.

That means once cleaned and properly sealed, the four lagoon cells currently available will be more than enough to handle the village's needs.

A study done by Miller & Associates engineering firm of Kearney previously suggested the village needed to basically double the space for lagoon cells, calling for an expensive expansion and repair estimated at nearly \$1.5 million.

"It's nice to come with good news," Reed Miller told the board of trustees during their regular monthly meeting on Feb. 13. "The jury is still out on the flow data. We still need to gather a few more months worth but right now it looks like half the flow would mean the proposed lagoon size could be reduced."

Leaving the lagoon at the four cells it is will cut out a large part of the cost of repairs.

So will a reduced amount of bentonite necessary to seal the existing cells.

Miller told the board that results of the geotechnical study show only a fourth of the original estimate of bentonite will need to be tilled into the soil to seal the lagoons.

"When we get a couple more months of flow data we'll revise the study and revise the cost and then you can decide where to go next with the project," Miller said.

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Trustees breathed a heavy sigh of relief.

"We like to hear good news," said board member Todd Roe.

The existing lagoons will be burned and sprayed this spring with the integration of bentonite to be added later. Televising of all sewer lines in town will also be done this spring.

Miller said the board should be able to revisit the issue in May with a revised report due to be submitted to the state and to the funding agency in June.

In other water issues, utility superintendent Troy Chestnutt told the board that 55 feet of sewer pipe on East River Street will have to be replaced to fix recurring backup there.

Trustees accepted a bid of \$1,500 from Franzen Underground Co. in Gothenburg over a bid of \$2,700 from Snell Services of North Platte for the repairs. Work will begin as soon as possible.

"We've had too many issues in this area not to address this right away," Roe said.

The board also accepted the one- and six-year road plan presented by road superintendent Carla O'Dell, who works for the Lincoln County department of roads.

O'Dell told the board the only change in the plan from previous years was the addition of patch work to be done on Market and Popleton streets as well as the pavement of the intersection of Matthewson and Commercial streets. Those projects were previously approved by the board.

In other action, trustees:

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adopted Public Water Systems emergency response policies, procedures, actions and documentation, a report submitted to the state every three years.

appointed Jerry Riewe and Troy Viter to the planning board to replace Cheryl Hyland and Don Knudsen as well as appointing Jerry Riewe to the health board.

authorized Chestnutt to have a curb stop at Maureen's Kitchen repaired with assistance from a plumber. Chestnutt said he is locating all of the curb stops and repairing them when necessary.

decided to have West Central Nebraska Development District make a public nuisance abatement presentation in Brady after the next village health board meeting.

discussed the possibility of adding crushed concrete to the gravel streets in town rather than gravel but will wait to make a decision once cost estimates are received.