City Council Meeting Agenda
City Council Chambers
March 6, 2017

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City of Benson Mission Statement
Benson is a forward looking community that values public safety, quality of life and treat people with dignity and respect.

5 p.m. Liquor Committee Meeting

1. 5:30 p.m. Call the Meeting to Order at the Benson City Council Chambers (Mayor)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda
   Additions? □ None 1._____ 2. _____
   Any Consent Agenda items to be moved to a regular agenda item?
   Approval of Agenda ____ as Presented or ____ Revised **Action Requested**

4. Consent Agenda: **Action Requested**

   a. Minutes:

5. Persons with unscheduled Business to Come Before the City Council

6. Consider an Appeal to the Benson City Council for Parking Citations Issued By the Benson Police Department on January 10, 2017. **Action Requested**

7-27 7. Conference Call – Stantec – Wastewater Treatment Plant Information Only

28-30 8. Consider Transfer of Federal AIP Entitlement Airport Dollars to Morris Municipal Airport **Action Requested**

31 9. Consider Request from the 1st Evangelical Free Church – Easter Egg Hunt **Action Requested**

32-34 10. Consider Liquor Store Cooler Purchase **Action Requested**

11. Facilities Update Information Only
    a. Armory and City Hall
    b. Benson Police Station

12. Council Training – City Planning Information Only

13. Adjourn: Mayor

In compliance with the American Disability Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Manager's office at 320-843-4775. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City of make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

DRAFT

MINUTES - BENSON CITY COUNCIL - REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 21, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig. Members present: Terri Collins, Jack Evenson, Stephanie Heinzig & Lucas Olson. Members Absent: Gary Landmark. Also present: City Manager Rob Wolfington, Director of Public Works Glen Pederson, Police Chief Ian Hodge, Sally Jones, Brooke Dillon, Bill Bridgeland, Joan Razink, Marla Forbord, Ashley Henriksen and Firemen Chief Jeff Reuss, Mark Schreck, Bob Hoberg and Tom Ascheman.

The Council recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig asked for any changes to the agenda. Wolfington asked to move the Parking Citations to the March 6, 2017 meeting. There were no additions to the agenda. No consent agenda items were moved to the regular agenda. A motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended. It was moved by Collins, Seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- February 6, 2017 City Council Minutes
- Charter Communications Price Increase Letter
- Police Report
- Gambling Permit for the Swift County Gobblers on March 24, 2017

The Mayor Pro-Tem asked for people with unscheduled business, to which there were none.

Former Fire Chief Mark Schreck and current Fire Chief Jeff Reuss approached the Council and presented their annual Fire Report for 2016. Chief Reuss thanked Schreck for his years serving as Fire Chief. Mayor Pro-Tem presented Schreck with an American Flag in appreciation for his years of service.

Next Wolfington and Pederson discussed the Benson Fire Relief Association for the firemen. PERA offers a cost analysis of retirement coverage in the statewide volunteer firefighter retirement plan. A study can be done to see if it would be more beneficial to have PERA manage the Fire Relief Retirement Association Investments. It is time consuming to administer, and becoming more difficult for the volunteer firemen to stay abreast of all the issues. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve having PERA conduct a cost analysis to include the Fire Relief Association in the statewide retirement plan.

Mayor Pro-Tem Heinzig opened the Public Hearing to discuss the Small Cities Development Program application to the Department of Employment and Economic Development at 5:45 pm. Wolfington presented a draft copy of the application to the Council and audience. He said it is a Federal grant and explained how the program is funded. He talked about the focus area based on returned letters of intent from both commercial and residential owners. He explained the income guidelines and the amount of equity a homeowner will need in order to participate if the City of Benson is awarded the grant. He also explained what the grant money can be used for. If Benson is awarded the Small Cities Grant, Swift County HRA will process the residential applications and the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission will process the commercial applications. He stated we hope to hear on the grant awards by late spring. Wolfington answered questions from citizens attending the meeting.

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve a pay request from the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission for the Small Cities grant proposal in the amount of $6,026.35.

Next Sally Jones, Grounds Manager at the Benson Golf Course approached the Council with a Capital Outlay Request for a used 2007 Toro Groundsmaster mower for the rough. They will have trade-in on their old mower. Pederson stated there is $25,000 in the budget to transfer to the Golf club for them to use for equipment. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the transfer to the Benson Golf Club in the amount of $24,500.

Wolfington said the Cemetery Board had been looking at benches to be placed on the cement around the columbarium at the Cemetery. They priced 3 curved benches which will take 12 weeks to make and install. The hope is to have them in place by Memorial Day. After discussion, it was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the proposal from Eickhof for 3 curved backless benches for the cemetery in the amount of $5,546.00.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the 2nd reading of an Ordinance to Amend Title IX: General Regulations; Benson City Code of 2003.

Wolfington said the Wastewater Treatment Facility received an operational award from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for 2016. The award is for outstanding operation, maintenance and management of the wastewater system. The award will be presented at the 80th Annual Wastewater Operations Conference on March 30, 2017 in Brooklyn Park.

Wolfington presented an evaluation done by Stantec on the condition of the wastewater plant. He asked the Council to review it before the next Council meeting on March 6, 2017.

Next Wolfington presented a letter from MnDOT in reference to the railroad crossing on 20th Avenue SE, east of Benson. This crossing has been selected to install a new railroad crossing signal system with flashers and gates. This project is all at no cost to the City. This project will be included in the 2018-2021 State Transportation Improvement programs, which will be submitted to FHWA for approval.

Police Chief Hodge gave an update on the Police Department building.

Pederson presented a preliminary draft of the floor plan to attach City Hall to the Armory building.

The Council discussed the Chamber of Commerce membership drive. After discussion it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve a $50 Government and Retail membership and $240 membership for the Liquor Store.

Next was the Civic Center roof bids. Wolfington stated there was one bid from Marcus Construction. The bid came in higher than the budgeted amount of $110,000. Wolfington said there are several leaks in the roof on the north end of the Civic Center where Case is renting. After discussion, it was moved by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the bid from Marcus Construction in the amount of $129,590.00.

Wolfington presented the Order Approving the Annexation of the Girls Ranch from the State of Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings. This makes the annexation official.

Councilmember Collins offered the following resolution:

RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING $80,000 FROM THE LIQUOR FUND TO THE GENERAL FUND (RESOLUTION NO. 2017-06)

WHEREAS, the City of Benson owns and operates a Municipal Liquor Store, and

WHEREAS, the City Council has budgeted to transfer $80,000 from the Liquor fund to the General Fund for calendar year 2017.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council authorized the transfer of $80,000 from the Liquor Fund to the General Fund.

Councilmember Evenson seconded the foregoing Resolution and the following vote was recorded: AYES: Collins, Heinzig, Olson, Evenson. NAYS: None. Thereupon the Mayor Pro-Tem declared Resolution 2017-06 duly passed and adopted.

Next was a pay request from Goff Masonry & Concrete for basement repairs to the building at 1226 Atlantic Avenue per the loan agreement with Mi Mexico. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Collins and carried unanimously to approve the pay request to Goff Masonry & Concrete in the amount of $10,800.00.

It was moved by Collins, seconded by Evenson and carried unanimously to approve the bills and warrants in the amount of $670,053.70.

Pederson presented the 2017 Budget Books to each Councilmember.

The Mayor Pro-Tem closed the Public Hearing at 6:52 pm.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Evenson, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 p.m.

_____
Mayor

_____
City Clerk

N/
2-7-17

EDA Meeting
January 19, 2017

Members Present:	Stephanie Heinzig, Jon Buyck, Jack Evenson, Sheryl Madden, and Rob Wolfington.
Members Absent:	Rick Horecka
Also Present:	None

Chairman Buyck called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Madden and carried unanimously to approve the December 16, 2016 EDA Minutes.

Wolfington shared with the EDA the CVEC Annual Meeting is January 24, 2017 at noon.

Wolfington said sister governmental agencies gathered to discuss the child care issues. Wolfington and Councilmember Collins had attended a couple of meetings on the subject. Wolfington offered three options. 1) Do nothing and let the market play out 2) take a middle of the road approach and put dollars toward training existing home day care providers, offer tax abatement for them and help license more day care providers. 3) Go Big and pay for a facility along with the hospital, school, county and independent employers to put money into hiring a consultant to study and consider a non-profit facility with each governmental group represented on a board. He estimated building and operating costs which could result in a raise in the tax levy.

Wolfington presented a bill from A.F. Building for materials for the Lindahl loan. It was moved by Evenson, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to approve payment of the bill.

The loan profile was reviewed.

There being no other business, it was moved by Madden, seconded by Heinzig and carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

_____
Chairman

Attest: _____
Treasurer

Benson Cemetery Board Minutes

December 7, 2016

Meeting called to order by Judy Hoberg

Members present were: Jim Hilleren, Greg Zneiwski, and Judy Hoberg. Also present were Rob Wolfington, Dan Gens, Elliot Nelson, and Duane Hopp.

Rob stated the city was going to put three ads in the paper about the columbarium.

Elliot discussed the lettering on the face plate of each niche; Elliot explained that there were many different founts that could be used on the plate. Elliot also stated that he talked to Val Rausch about engraving the face plates. He said he could match any founts that Eichoff had and could do it without removing the plate. A motion was made to have Eichoff or Rausch do the engraving with the Optimal Bold fount. The lettering would be 5/8 of inch for the name and ½ inch for the dates. The name and dates will be paid by the city on the initial engraving, but any additional engraving is at the expense of the niche owner. The names and dates will be allowed on six lines if needed, but only names and dates of the owners. Motion made by Greg and seconded by Jim, passed.

There was discussion about the cost associated with the cemetery. It was decided to go with the agreed upon cost schedule for the cemetery.

Dan brought up that he was trying to work within the budget and replace the trail on the west side of the cemetery with a cement sidewalk that would last a lot longer than a paved path one.

Recorded by Duane Hopp

Benson WWTF Condition Evaluation

Prepared for:
City of Benson, Minnesota

Prepared by:
Tom Dye, PE

Project No. 193803741

February 9, 2017

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APPENDIX – BENSON WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY EVALUATION – STANTEC 2014

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The Benson wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) was constructed in 1982 and underwent a major expansion in 2004. Since 2004 there have been no major improvement projects. In 2014 Stantec performed an evaluation of the two non-potable water systems, the effluent filters, final clarifiers, and sludge storage tank mixing. A copy of this report is included in the Appendix. Since that evaluation, the supply for the non-potable water systems was changed from treated effluent to City water.

For this report Stantec was requested to provide a precursory evaluation of the major processes, structures, and equipment at the WWTF. The purpose of the evaluation is to provide budgetary costs for recommended improvements and to prioritize the improvements. A more detailed evaluation should follow this evaluation, such as a Facilities Plan, which would provide the City a 20-year planning document and qualify the City for State funding.

A Stantec structural engineer and a process engineer completed a site visit to the Benson WWTF on October 4, 2016. This report includes a brief description of the conditions observed, recommended improvements, project costs for recommended improvements and a summary table listing the improvements and costs in order of priority.

2.0 FACILITY CONDITION

2.1 HEADWORKS (SCREENING & GRIT REMOVAL) AREA

This area is a rated environment about Fire Protection Code and National Electric Code. These codes require ventilation of the area and that the electrical components are designed for the environment. The ventilation required by the codes also protects operators from unsafe environments. The lower level, containing influent pumps, is open to the screen and grit area which makes it a rated area as well. Moist, and possibly corrosive, air from the screening area migrates into the lower level causing corrosion of equipment and piping. This situation was described in the 2014 report.

2.1.1 Upper Level - Screen & Grit Room

The following items were noted during the site visit:

- Main heating and ventilation system not operable and, according to staff, has been out of service for more than 5 years. A hot water pipe broke in a difficult to access location and caused the initial shut down. Operators open windows in summer for ventilation. Roof exhaust fan in working order.
- Mechanical Screen: Recently replaced bearings and shaft. Manufacturer recommends replacing some teeth. Otherwise system working well.
- Grit cyclone and classifier working properly – coating deteriorated.
- Mechanical Room: Large air handling unit in mechanical room supplies ventilation for drywell and is not working. Staff indicated it has been out of service for 5+ years.
- Mechanical Room: Small electric boiler provides heat source for screen room and control room/office. Working properly.
- Mechanical Room: Small PD blower was used for backup for sulfur dioxide mixing and effluent aeration to meet DO limit. Out of service for over 5 years.

2.1.2 Lower Level – Wetwell Areas

There are two areas in the lower level; the screen channel and sampler are inside the building; the influent manual bar screen and the aerated grit chamber are outside. In addition, the influent wetwell is enclosed but the doorway is open to the outdoors.

- Interior screen channel area: Ventilation and heating are not working. Operators use a window fan to blow warm air from upper level through floor hatch. Grit pipe is showing corrosion.
- Outside: air leak in pipe to aerated grit chamber. Operators intend to repair.
- Outside: icing occurs on bar screen in winter. Operator uses heat lamp to alleviate.
- Outside: wetwell roof ventilation fan is not working.

2.1.3 Lower Level – Drywell Area (Influent Pumps)

- Ventilation system is not operable
- High flow influent pumps – activate at high wetwell level, off by float switch.

- Pump must be manually turned off (reset) if second high float switch is activated.
- High flow pumps lose prime. Operators hold check valve open every few days to allow water into pump.
- Non-potable water system (pumps, tanks) is no longer used, as system is connected to City water system.
- EQ basin drain line has a manual valve and a pneumatic pinch valve. Manual valve requires operators to stand on a ladder and use a pipe wrench to operate the valve. Pinch valve does not work. The pneumatic pinch valve system was supposed to be automated but final programming was not completed. Staff indicated that the manual system is preferred as it is easier to control flow.

Valve Operation Requires Ladder and Pipe Wrench

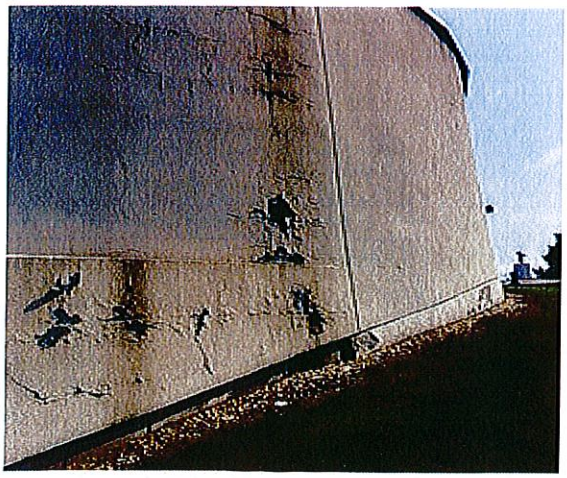
2.2 PRIMARY CLARIFIER

The operators indicated that the primary clarifier equipment is in working order and decent condition. However, the clarifier overflows into the scum pit when two influent pumps are operating simultaneously or the trickling filter recirculation pumps are used. The clarifier effluent and trickling filter recirculation water flow into the same box. The apparent problem is that the pipes carrying flow from the box cause water to back up in the box and into the clarifier. The 2004 plans for the Benson WWTF show the clarifier effluent weir approximately 1.4 feet lower than the 1982 plans. The clarifier weir, effluent box, and adjacent processes may need to be surveyed to verify elevations. This issue requires additional detailed evaluation.

2.3 TRICKLING FILTERS

2.3.1 First Stage Trickling Filter

The entire distributor base was reconstructed in 2015 and the distributor bearings were replaced at the same time. Insulation/coating system on tank exterior has widespread cracking and in one location there is a small area where the insulation system is completely gone. See description of insulation system in following paragraph.



Trickling Filter Insulation

2.3.2 Second Stage Trickling Filter (2004 Construction)

The second stage trickling filter is clad in an Exterior Insulation Finish System (EIFS), consisting of 2-inch extruded polystyrene (XPS) that is coated with a 1/8-inch thick synthetic stucco. The aluminum dome cover on the trickling filter is fabricated of triangular panels. When it rains, water collects on the panels and the runoff is channeled to the apex of each panel and runs down the sides. This concentrated flow is prematurely deteriorating the EIFS, due to freeze-thaw action. The XPS may be fit for salvage and reuse, while the damaged stucco finish will likely have to be replaced. In addition, a gutter and downspouts should be installed around the domed cover to manage the runoff and prevent further deterioration. Although a more detailed investigation may show that the insulation can be salvaged, the recommended improvement cost includes compete replacement of the whole EIFS system on both trickling filters.

2.4 ACTIVATED SLUDGE SYSTEM

System is providing adequate treatment. However, the aeration diffusers in the activated sludge basins were installed in 2004 and have not been replaced. The membrane style diffusers have an average expected life of up to 10 years. Worn diffusers have inefficient oxygen transfer and can lead to fouling of the diffuser. As noted below, solids are settling in the basins. The worn diffusers may be causing insufficient mixing.

- Last time the operators drained tank there was 3-4 feet of sludge in bottom (not grit).
- Running at about 1200 mg/l MLSS

2.5 BLOWER/PUMP BUILDING

Building houses activated sludge blowers, sludge tank mixing pump, sludge load-out pump, trickling filter feed pumps and trickling filter recirculation pumps. The following were noted:

- Makeup air unit is not working. Local electrician is working on repairs.
- Sludge mixing pump and sludge loadout pump are working. Mixing pump had leak which was repaired. However, pump needs full service to replace worn parts.
- Trickling filter influent pumps in good operating condition.
- Trickling Filter Recirculation Pumps – in working order but not used because it causes the primary clarifier to overflow.
- Groundwater leaking into building. Needs to be fixed as soon as possible.

Groundwater Intrusion in Pump/Blower Building

2.6 FINAL CLARIFIERS & EFFLUENT PUMPS

The final clarifier equipment is in working order but in winter ice builds up on gear box which can cause the chain to derail. Operators use a small heater inside a box, built around the gear box, to alleviate icing. Significant amount of algae growth noted on weirs.

Effluent pumps that feed the filters do not alternate automatically. At times one of the pumps is dropped from the sequence and doesn't operate for several days. This can cause air to accumulate in the pump preventing water from passing through the pump.

2.7 FILTER BUILDING

As noted in the 2014 evaluation of the filters, they have deteriorated and need to be replaced. Parts for some components are no longer available. The filters are unsafe for operators to enter to make repairs. During the site visit the following additional deficiencies were noted:

- Boiler and Makeup air unit are not working. Currently using electric heater.
- Motor Control Center #2 - Panel view does not work (Allen Bradley 1500M).

Heating & Ventilation System Not Working

2.8 CHLORINATION AND DECHLORINATION

The chemical tanks and feed systems for both chlorine and sulfur dioxide are housed in the same room. This does not meet the current standards. However, if equipment is replaced "in-kind" the regulatory agency does not require review and approval of plans. Equipment was installed during the 2004 project. This type of equipment generally should be replaced about every 15 years.

- Electric heater in room is corroded but working. Staff indicated this does not require repair or replacement.

2.9 CHEMICAL FEED & STORAGE

The ferric storage building houses two chemical storage tanks, two chemical feed pumps, heaters, ventilation fan and electric control panel. Systems are working properly except for the natural gas heater. Due to very corrosive nature of ferric chloride, having the control panel in this room may lead to deterioration of electrical components.

- Gas heater does not work. Newer electrical heater working.
- Ventilation fan was not on at time of visit but is operational according to operators.

- Stainless steel control panel inside room has some corrosion.

2.10 ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS

The City had the digester covers inspected within the last 2 years and there is significant deterioration of the steel in several places. Both covers need to be replaced. As noted below there are operational problems with the methane boiler.

- Boiler
  - Burns natural gas or methane.
  - Flame goes out frequently – operator has to adjust primary ignition air.
  - Flame trips out on start-up at least weekly (4 to 10 times per month).
  - Operator must drain boiler to add descaling chemical.
- Gas Flare does not work. Currently operators try to burn all extra methane in the boiler but some is manually vented through the pressure relief valve on digester tank.
- Gas detection system needs to be calibrated and checked for proper operation.
- Mixing/recirculation are sufficient. Pump leaking grease. Mixer has seal leak.
- Sludge piping to mixer needs replacement.
- Secondary digester – floating cover is not level.
- Motor Control Center #3 – Panel view does not work (Allen-Bradley 1500M).

2.11 SLUDGE STORAGE TANK

The following were noted during the site visit.

- Floor is not sloped making clean out difficult.
- Mixing not effective in moving heavy solids that settle to floor. Operator stated that if nozzle direction was adjustable, getting all solids out would be easier.
- Need large water hydrant near tank for cleanout. Can extend City water from street to tank.

2.12 ELECTRICAL AND CONTROLS

The electrical service and distribution equipment (service entrance, motor control centers, panel boards, etc.) appear to be in good working condition. Since most of equipment was upgraded/replaced in the 2004 project, replacement parts should still be readily available. Costs have been included in the estimate for minor electrical upgrades and also for electrical work needed to accommodate new process and mechanical equipment.

The lighting generally appears to be in good working condition, however, assuming it will be a few years before an actual construction project will be undertaken, we would recommend budgeting for replacement of all lighting with LED lighting. This would include all interior and exterior lighting. This should be considered a low priority item.

The controls also appear to be in good working condition (other than the Digester and Filter Building operator interfaces). However, the Allen-Bradley PLCs are nearing a point in their life

cycle where they will start to become less supported by the manufacturer and eventually reach a point where replacement parts are no longer available.

The operator interfaces in the Digester and Filter Buildings are not functioning and should be replaced.

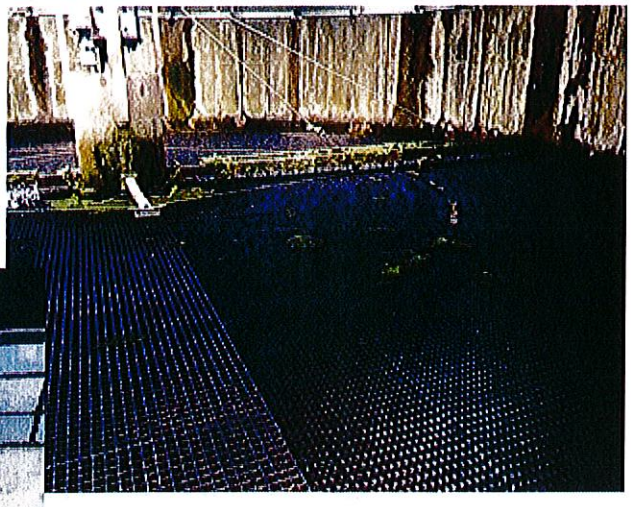
The SCADA computers and software should be budgeted for replacement and upgrading if this has not occurred in the last 6 to 7 years. With the nature of computers and software, eventually the operating system (i.e. Windows XP) becomes obsolete and eventually causes an upgrade to be necessary.

2.13 STANDBY GENERATOR

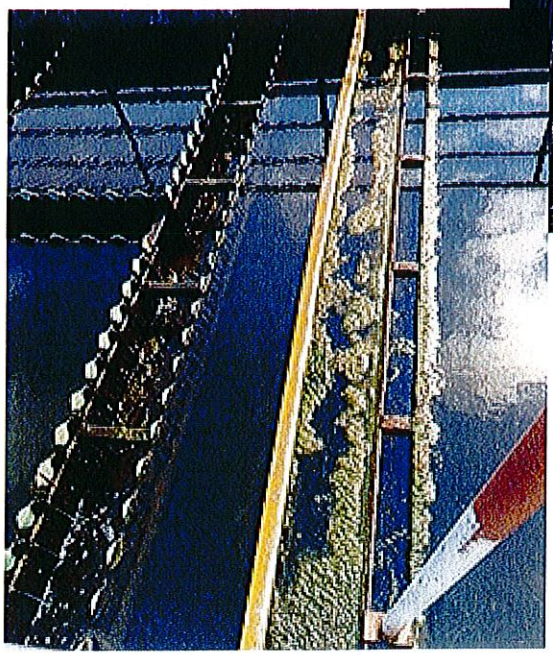
The standby generator operates properly according to facility operators. The generator should be load banked occasionally if it has not been load banked in the past. Costs for this have not been included in this report.

2.14 GENERAL FACILITY

The facility in general needs to be cleaned. Plant and algae growth on trickling filter distributor arms, trickling filter media and walls, clarifier weirs and other areas should be removed. The growth in these areas can affect plant performance and efficiency as well as being an aesthetic issue. Also the interior of some buildings should be cleaned for aesthetics and safety.



Growth on Trickling Filter Distributor



Growth on Clarifier Weirs

3.0 RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS & ESTIMATED COSTS

The table below lists the improvements recommended to address items at the Benson WWTF that were discovered during the evaluation. Each recommended improvement includes an estimated project cost (equipment, installation, design and construction admin services, contingency). Also each item is given a priority based on the critical nature of the process or equipment and the condition of the equipment.

Table 1 Recommendations and Estimated Project Cost

Process/Location	Recommendations	Estimated Cost	Priority
Headworks	Replace heating and ventilation systems. Two air handling units with hydronic coils, four exhaust fans, hydronic unit heaters. Ventilation systems will provide positive pressure in drywell and negative pressure in wetwell.	$200,000	High
	Recoat equipment and piping in headworks and drywell area	$30,000	Low
	Replace wetwell roof ventilation fan	$4,000	High
	Consider covering grit chamber and bar screen area to prevent icing	For City Consideration	Low
Drywell Area	Modify influent pump control so pumps will automatically shut off when high wetwell level condition cleared	Integrator can correct during next site visit	Med
	Provide separate heating and ventilation system for lower level. Provide gas fired makeup air unit and exhaust fan.	$60,000	High
	Replace manual plug valve on EQ drain line	$4,000	High
	Replace pinch valve on EQ drain line and reinstate automated controls	$10,000	Low
Primary Clarifier	Resolve issue with overflow	Requires Add'l Evaluation	High
Trickling Filters			
First Stage Filter	Repair insulation system	$40,000	High
	Install gutter system to protect coating	$10,000	High
Second Stage Filter	Install gutter system to protect coating	$10,000	High
	Repair coating on insulation	$60,000	High
	Remove plant growth on distributor arms, walls, media	Operational	High

BENSON WWTF CONDITION EVALUATION

recommended improvements & estimated costs
February 9, 2017

Activated Sludge	Replace aeration diffusers	$5,000	Med
Final Clarifiers & Effluent Pumps	Correct automatic alternation of pumps	Integrator can correct during next site visit	Med
	Clean weirs and check for level	Operational	High
Blower/Pump Building	Correct groundwater intrusion	$5,000	High
Filter Building	Replace Filters	$1,200,000	High
	Replace ventilation and heating system. Boiler, air handler with hydronic coil, 2 exhaust fans, unit heater	$150,000	Med
Chlorination and Dechlorination	Replace all chemical feed equipment	$60,000	Med
	Replace electric heater	$10,000	Med
Anaerobic Digesters	Replace covers on both digesters	$400,000	High
	Replace boiler	$150,000	Med
	Service boiler to fix ignition problem	Operational	High
	Replace gas detection system	$20,000	High
	Calibrate gas detection system & check for proper operation	Operational	High
	Replace gas flare	$90,000	High
	Replace Ventilation Fans	$10,000	Low
	Replace digester gas piping	$2,000	Med
Sludge Storage	Grout floor to provide slope	$25,000	Med
	Improve mixing system	Requires Add'l Evaluation	Med
	Extend City water main & install large water hydrant near tank.	$15,000	Med
Electrical and Controls			
Lighting upgrade	Replace all interior and exterior lighting with LED.	$100,000	Low
Controls Upgrade	Replace/upgrade all PLCs, operator interfaces, computers, and software	$200,000	Med / High

Electrical Upgrades	New/modified wiring to accommodate process, HVAC, and building modifications.	$25,000	Med / High
General Facility	Perform general cleaning throughout facility.	Operational	Med
	Remove buried fuel tank under parking area – was used for generator	$15,000	Med

APPENDIX

City of Benson
Wastewater Treatment Facility Evaluation

The City of Benson asked Stantec to look into a few items at the wastewater treatment facility that are causing operational issues or concerns. The following is a summary of the current conditions and recommendations to address the issues.

1.0 Non-Potable Water System

The existing pumps are worn out and deteriorated. Existing system:

- 2 pumps, 7.5 hp, 3 phase, 60 Hz
- Used for chlorination and dechlorination chemical delivery, yard hydrants.
- Design conditions: 40 gpm at 65 psi
- Large hydro-pneumatic tank

There are several options available for the non-potable pumping system, from simple to complex. All options considered include at least two pumps and controls. The pumps and controllers come from the manufacturer mounted on a skid but the tank (if necessary) would be separate. The options considered for Benson were:

1. System similar to existing with two constant-speed pumps and hydro-pneumatic tank.
2. Two-pump system with VFDs controlled based on system pressure.
3. Three-pump system on VFDs. Two pumps of equal size and one large pump.

Option 1: Option would include two constant-speed pumps that would cycle on/off as demand dictates. A large tank is needed to buffer the pumps from cycling frequently. Including demo and installation, the estimated budget cost of this system is $10,000.

Option 2: The second option would include two pumps controlled by VFDs. Control loop would match pump discharge (speed) to demand so pumps would cycle infrequently. One pump would provide sufficient water/pressure for chlor and dechlor system and second pump would activate when higher demand occurs such as running a hydrant. Controls will deactivate pump if demand is lower than pump can provide while operating at lowest speed. Controls system will alternate lead pump at each startup and could alternate pumps based on a timer. Estimated cost for pumps and controls is $10,000 not including installation. With plumbing, electrical, demo and installation the estimated budget cost is $18,000 to $20,000.

Option 3: The third option would include a three-pump system with VFDs. Two smaller pumps would operate when demand is normal (chlor and dechlor system running) and the one larger pump would be activated when demand is high (chlor, dechlor and hydrant running). This system is obviously more complex. Estimated cost for the pumps and controls is $15,000. With the plumbing, electrical, demo and installation the estimated budget cost is $25,000 to $30,000.

The budgetary costs for all options include an allowance ($1,000) to replace some existing piping and valves. The City may save significant cost if they choose to purchase the equipment directly and perform most of the installation with City staff.

Options 2 and 3 have the advantage of increased efficiency by matching demand and reducing pump starts. These two options also eliminate the need for a tank. Option 3 would provide a third pump that would activate in the event of higher than usual demand. The disadvantage is the higher cost and more complex system. Stantec recommends a two pump system with VFDs as described in Option 2.

Another option would be for the City to use potable water for these demands. However the City will need to evaluate whether they can, or want to, provide drinking water for what can be more than 20,000 gallons per day.

2.0 Sludge Mixing System

Operators report the sludge mixing system in the sludge storage tank as inadequate. Another issue is the floor of the round storage tank is relatively flat. Operators reportedly use a hose and ladder to access the tanks and push solids to the sump. The sludge, or biosolids, is reportedly difficult to push with water to the sump. Operators report there are heavy settled solids on the bottom of the tank, after most of the contents have been pumped out and land applied. This is not unusual, especially for well digested and old anaerobically digested biosolids. Solids can collect on the bottom by the sidewalls and behind the discharge end of the mixing nozzles.

The storage tank is 54 feet in diameter with a maximum operating depth of 16 feet and volume of 274,000 gallons. Operators can "decant" clear water from the tank after solids have settled over several weeks or months. The "decant" water is pumped into a collection pipe using a submersible pump on a hoist from the observation platform.

According to the Benson Biosolids hauling records for 2000 through 2013 the solids concentration of land applied sludge has ranged from 5.1% to 8.95%. The average over the past three years is 7.7% solids. The mixing system is not designed to handle sludge of this thickness. Correspondence from the mixing system manufacturer indicates that the system will provide complete mixing for sludge with 4% to 5% solids content.

There are a couple options depending on how the City wants to handle the biosolids. If the system will continue to be operated to produce solids higher than 5% then changes to the mixing system are required which may include an additional mixing pump. A more in depth look at mixing option may be needed if the biosolids need to be thickened to greater than 5% in the tank. If the City can operate at 4% to 5% solids then the system should provide sufficient mixing. The mixer manufacturer suggests checking the existing pump condition for impeller wear, cutter bar wear and tolerances. Also it is possible to change impellers to increase pump discharge without changing the existing pump motor. The manufacturer also suggests changing the nozzle angles to increase mixing effectiveness. Correspondence from the mixer manufacturer is attached to this summary.

For the interim, Stantec recommends that decanting liquid from the tank be limited to maintain about 4% solids in the tank and also, if not done recently, check pump condition and replace worn parts and reset tolerances. Obviously reducing the solids content will increase the number of loads that have to be hauled to the fields each year, but will produce a product that can be pumped and mixed. The City may need to compare the cost of additional mixing versus the cost of hauling additional loads to the fields. From 2000 through 2013 Benson has hauled an average of 46.4 dry tons of biosolids. These numbers are computed using laboratory results and total gallons hauled.

- Most dry tons hauled in past 14 years 82 tons (2007)
- Lowest dry tons hauled in 14 years 31.4 tons (2013)

46.4 tons of solids at 2% biosolids would have a volume of 556,350 gallons

- If that amount were 4% biosolids volume would be 278,000 gallons
- If that amount were 8% biosolids volume would be 139,000 gallons

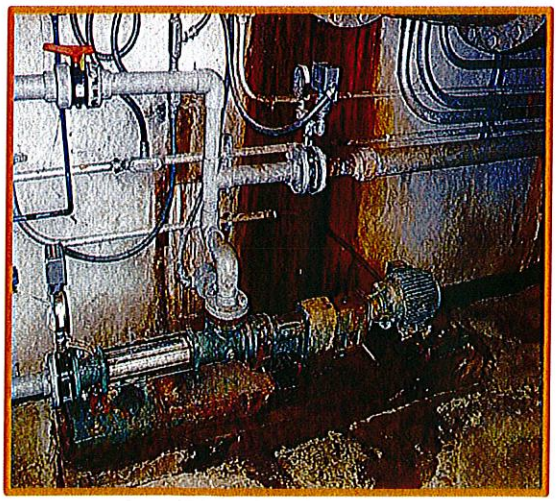
The Benson WWTF has the following biosolids capacities:

Plant Biosolids Capacity	Gallons
Primary Digester	67,500
Secondary Digester	168,000
Storage Tank	274,000

Typically the digester is loaded with primary sludge each day. Usually primary sludge has solids content in the 2-4% range. The digestion activity breaks down the solids; actually producing some water as a by-product. This process yields a sludge product that when allowed to settle will produce a layer of clear water that can be decanted. If the decanting/thickening process produces 4% solids, the City would need basically one storage tank volume for a whole year's worth of biosolids.

3.0 Pipe Leaking at Wall

Groundwater leaking around filter effluent water pipe in lower level of control building. The existing link seal not installed properly because the pipe is not centered in the wall opening. The opposite side of the wall is below the screen room and cannot be accessed readily. The leaking may be corrected through chemical injection. Several companies do this injection work. Stantec obtained a rough estimate of approximately $3000 from Visu-Sewer. Visu-Sewer would require mileage from the Twin City area, unless scheduled with other work. The process comes with product warranty, but the warranty does not cover mobilization to reinstall or correct any product that did not work properly. Contact: Todd Stelmacher, tstelmacher@visu-sewer.com.



Since the pump is no longer in use, the City should remove the pump directly below the leak, and all conduit and wiring associated with this pump.

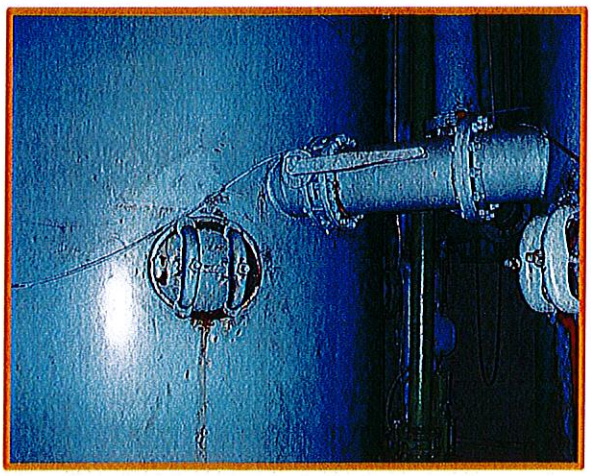
The City may consider fixing the leak themselves which could be done as follows:

- Remove pump, plumbing, conduit and wiring below pipe penetration.
- Core drill 4 inch hole directly below leaking penetration.
- Install 1 ½ Schedule 80 PVC piping and valve using Link Seal into 4 inch hole. This will relieve water pressure on wall.
- Remove leaking "Link-Seal" from existing pipe penetration.
- Clean and sandblast 12 inch piping and penetration.
- Pack "Water Plug" grout mixture into wall cavity penetration around the 16 inch wastewater piping. Install approximately a 4-inch thickness of grout at a time until entire wall penetration (12 inch thickness) is full of grout. All pipe and concrete should be thoroughly cleaned before grouting.
- Cap or shut off valve in the 4 inch core drilled hole.

Stantec recommends the City have the chemical injection performed to seal the annular space around the pipe.

5.0 Effluent Filters

Effluent Filters are deteriorating and are in need of replacement. Originally built in 1983, they have served the City for over 30 years. The two filters each have a filter area of 113 square feet. Operators report that cleaning or replacement of media has been a challenge. Pictured on the right is an access man-way that provides the access for the media replacement process. There is only the one access hatch for the entire diameter of 12 feet and it is rather small. Media replacement was reported as a difficult chore as operators had to enter the filter tank through this access-way.



There are a couple options available to replace filters:

- The existing filters only backwash for 5 minutes and therefore produce less backwash waste water than the more conventional 15-minute backwash. These filters store backwash water within the filter tank and therefore don't require a backwash water source or a backwash pump. To replace the existing filters with filters of similar dimensions and configuration is approximately $450,000 for the equipment only (Tonka Water Systems). This cost includes controls but does not include removal of existing

filters, installation, piping modifications, replacement of auxiliary equipment such as air compressor, or building modifications. Filter replacement will require removal of block wall to provide access for installation of new equipment. For budgetary purposes, a total project cost (including allowances for engineering) would be approximately $1,100,000.

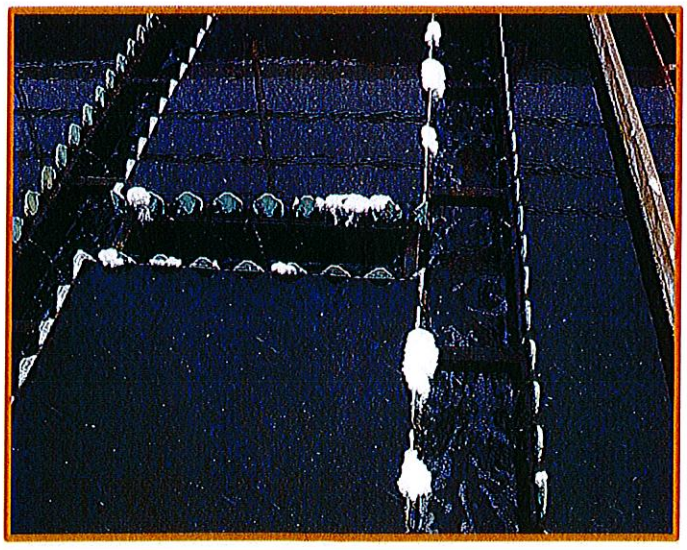
- An alternative type of filter would be rectangular-shaped, multi-cell gravity filter where each cell operates independently. This allows the majority of the filter area to remain in service while the one cell is backwashing. Thus only one filter would be required. However, unlike the existing filters that store backwash water, these filters would need a backwash water source. Each filter would require 13,000 gallons of backwash water for the full filter area. The backwash water could be pulled from the disinfection chamber which appears to hold over 15,000 gallons of filtered water. There would need to be a time delay between filter backwashes to allow the chlorine basin to refill. Approximate dimensions of the rectangular filters would be 10 feet wide X 23 feet long X 10 feet high. It appears that the existing filter room would have adequate space for this filter. The estimated equipment cost for one gravity filter is about the same as the vertical cylindrical filters but a backwash pump and associated piping to connect to a backwash source would also be required.

Additional design detail is required to determine the best option for Benson but the City should budget for a project in the $1.0 to $1.2 million range.

6.0 Final Clarifiers

The water in the final clarifiers contains small solids often referred to as pin floc. The common causes of pin floc are:

- Old sludge
- High shear due to over aeration
- Low F:M



Any of these issues could be occurring in the Benson WWTF. The trickling filters remove the majority of the BOD in the influent wastewater which leaves a relatively small amount of BOD (food) for the microorganisms in the contact stabilization basins.

In order to further diagnose the pin floc issue, additional data would be required such as:

- Solids concentration in the contact stabilization basins (MLSS)
- BOD concentration entering the contact stabilization basins
- Sludge return and wasting rates
- DO Levels in contact stabilization basins

Comparing the existing clarifier size to 10 State Standards, the clarifier area is sufficient in regard to solids loading rates. The existing clarifiers will provide a surface overflow rate that is within standards up to a flow of 1.5 mgd. While at the site, the operators pointed out that the clarifier weirs are not all level which can lead to short circuiting. The operators indicated that the pin floc is not a large concern except during high flow periods when solids going over the clarifier weirs cause the filters to backwash frequently.

7.0 Condition of Equipment in Control Building Basement

The pumps and other equipment in the control building basement are deteriorating. Operators report that equipment installed as recently as the 2005 project is rusting and aging quickly. The most likely cause is the lack of proper building ventilation. Humid corrosive air from the grit system on the upper level migrates to the lower level. The lower level is naturally a damp area especially during warm humid weather. The building heating and ventilation systems should be evaluated and updated to provide a negative pressure in the grit classifier area and adequate ventilation in the lower level. This will not only protect existing and new equipment in the building but will also increase operator safety. The existing ventilation system likely does not meet current code. The ventilation system should be upgraded prior to, or at the same time, new non-potable water system equipment is installed.

Dye, Thomas

From: Glenn Dorsch <glennd@chopperpumps.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 4:37 PM
To: Dye, Thomas; Arlander, Todd
Cc: Mike Panther; Derek Vaughan; Gary Metzler (gary@vbminc.com)
Subject: RE: Benson
Attachments: Benson Rotamix I,O&M.PDF; Benson MN Mixing Specs.pdf; Benson Rotamix startup data.pdf; E- Series 6U 1170.pdf

Tom and Todd,

I have looked up the records for the Benson, MN WWTP sludge storage mixing tank system. The equipment was shipped from Vaughan Co. in 2004, so it's about 10 years old. Attached is information I looked up and sent out around the beginning of April in case you did not receive this information.

The mixing pump likely needs maintenance after all this time:

First, if no maintenance has been done on the HE6U8P-115 chopper pump in 10 years, critical parts such as the impeller and cutter bar plate may be worn out. If these parts are worn out, mixing effectiveness will be affected because reduced head and flow will be coming out of the main mixing pump. Startup data from Dec, 2005, suggests that the system was working effectively when it was new. So, the first thing I would suggest is to have a pump inspection performed to determine the condition of the internal pump parts, particularly to look for impeller-to-cutter bar gap (it should be about 0.15-.025") and to look for overall wear on the cutter bar plate and impeller. I suspect these parts need replacement along with the cutter nut and probably the upper cutter. These parts are typically good for about 5 years or so in most Rotamix mixing systems, after which they may require replacement.

The mixing pump can be improved with new parts from a new, improved, more efficient impeller and matching cutter bar plate:

I have attached a pump curve for the new HE6U pump at 1155 RPM. This pump curve is for a new impeller design that interchanges into the old 6U pump there at Benson. For the new parts, a maximum diameter 11.8" impeller can be used with the existing 25 HP, 1170-rpm motor and more flow can be achieved compared to the original pump. The original pump was specified for 1150 GPM at 42' TDH. The new version of the HE6U can produce 1350 GPM at 42' TDH. More mixing will help the mixing system work better and all parts that I've mentioned are backward compatible.

Nozzles can be slightly re-aimed to generate more torque to rotate the tank fluid:

Since this is a sludge tank with levels that go up and down, on the next opportunity to enter the tank, the nozzles could be re-aimed for more aggressive mixing. The nozzles are currently aimed with the upper nozzle in each dual assembly at 90° off an imaginary line to the tank center and the lower nozzle at 30°. Mixing can be improved by aiming the lower nozzle out at about 45-50° while leaving the upper nozzle at 90°.

The mixing system needs to be run long enough to fully homogenize the sludge:

We have seen some problems where customers do not run the mixing system long enough to get sludge fully mixed and homogenized. Sometimes a week or two of 24/7 (continuous) mixing system operation is needed. If the mixing system is not run long enough, problems start to accumulate from one tank pumpdown to the next and get worse over time as more and more sludge is left on the tank floor.

Sometimes the use of two pumps in parallel can help greatly:

The mixing system was supplied with only one pump. There is no duty/standby pump arrangement. If there is room near the pump to install a 2nd pump that can be run in parallel with the original, refurbished pump when sludge is super thick, that approach has been very useful for dealing with the mixing of super thick sludges that have been described in your emails below. 9% sludge is extremely viscous. I know of no situation where we have ever mixed sludge this thick.

For lime stabilized sludge that tends to set up into solid chunks, this dual-pump approach has been very helpful to resolve floor sludge buildup problems.

Upper Scum Layer or Crust:

If an upper scum layer or crust forms on the tank sludge surface, and this might happen if there is no cover on the tank, allowing the summer sun to cook the sludge on the upper surface, sometimes up-aiming the upper nozzle in each dual assembly can help to address this upper surface crusting. We can supply a couple of 22.5° 6" ells and matching 6" clamps that can be mounted on each upper nozzle of each dual assembly. If the problem is not an upper surface crust but heavy solids on the floor, up-aiming may not be appropriate. But sometimes the heavy stuff on the floor is really baked sludge from the sun that was once on the tank surface and then as tank level is lowered, the crust ends up on the floor. We had this problem occur on an open sludge storage tank in Iowa. If this sludge is being measured as 9% solids, it may be that sun baking is creating the problem.

What percent solids can be mixed?

If the sludge is polymer thickened, you might be able to mix 4% sludge, maybe 5%, in a tank of 54' dia. with the kind of mixing flow and 25 HP pump available. If the sludge is not polymer thickened but rather digested sludge that is being thickened because of summertime heat and evaporation, you might be able to mix 6% sludge if you are lucky. If the sludge really is 9% solids, then adding a 2nd pump in parallel that could help put more mixing flow into the nozzles could perhaps help break things up more effectively. If sludge is being dried out, water may be needed to get the percent solids sludge back to some pumpable and mixable value.

Conclusion:

I can be contacted by phone directly at 360-249-0723 if that might be helpful. Or, I am glad to help via email. I am glad to help in any way I can.

Regards,

Glenn R. Dorsch, P.E, VP/Chief Engineer
Vaughan Co., Inc.
PH: 360-249-4042; FAX: 360-249-6155

From: Mike Panther
Sent: Tuesday, May 13, 2014 11:37 AM
To: Glenn Dorsch
Subject: Fwd: Benson

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BENSON, MINNESOTA AND THE CITY OF MORRIS, MINNESOTA

I.

This document is a memorialization of the Agreement between the City of Benson and the City of Morris. It reflects an agreement based on mutual consideration between both of those agencies in that the City of Benson does hereby authorize $138,655 of 2014 Federal AIP Entitlement Dollars, earmarked for the Benson Municipal Airport, to be transferred to the City of Morris for their use at the Morris Municipal Airport.

II.

The City of Benson agrees to sign and file Order 5100.38b, Appendix 16, "*Entitlement Tranfer Agreement*" with the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration. This action will finalize the above-stated transfer of Federal AIP Entitlement dollars.

III.

All parties acknowledge that this agreement is in full consideration which will allow for $138,655 of Federal Entitlement money to be transferred to the City of Morris on or about May 15, 2017 with no future repayment of transferred funds back to the City of Benson.

This Agreement is fully stated and cannot be canceled, modified, or in any way changed without express written permission of both parties.

_____

Rob Wolfington
City of Benson - City Manager

_____

Blaine Hill
City of Morris - City Manager

Request for FAA Approval of Agreement for Transfer of Entitlements

In accordance with 49 USC § 47117(c)(2),

Name of Transferring Sponsor: City of Benson
hereby waives receipt of the following amount of funds apportioned to it under 49 USC § 47117(c) for the:

Name of Transferring Airport (and Locid): Benson Municipal Airport (BBB)

for each fiscal year listed below:

Entitlement Type (Passenger, Cargo or Nonprimary)	Fiscal Year	Amount
Nonprimary	2014	$138,655
		$
		$
		$
Total		**$138,655**

The Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the waived amount will be made available to:

Name of Airport (and Locid) Receiving Transferred Entitlements: Morris Municipal Airport (MOX)

Name of Receiving Airport's Sponsor: City of Morris

a public use airport in the same state or geographical areas as the transferring airport for eligible projects under 49 USC § 47104(a).

The waiver expires on the earlier of May 15, 2017 (date) or when the availability of apportioned funds lapses under 49 USC § 47117(b).

For the United States of America, Federal Aviation Administration:

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Certification of Transferring Sponsor

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct. I understand that knowingly and willfully providing false information to the federal government is a violation of 18 USC § 1001 (False Statements) and could subject me to fines, imprisonment, or both.

Executed on this day of _____ , 2017.

Name of Sponsor: City of Benson

Name of Sponsor's Authorized Official: Rob Wolfington

Title of Sponsor's Authorized Official: City Manager

Signature of Sponsor's Authorized Official: _____

Certificate of Transferring Sponsor's Attorney

I, Benjamin R. Wilcox, acting as Attorney for the Sponsor do hereby certify that in my opinion the Sponsor is empowered to enter into the foregoing Agreement under the laws of the state of Minnesota. Further, I have examined the foregoing Agreement and the actions taken by said Sponsor and Sponsor's official representative has been duly authorized and that the execution thereof is in all respects due and proper and in accordance with the laws of the said state and 49 USC § 47101, et seq.

Dated at Benson, Minnesota (City, State), this 21st day of February, 2017.

Signature of Sponsor's Attorney: _____

The First Evangelical Free Church
900 13th Street South
Benson, MN 56215
Ph 320-843-3521

Feb. 28th 2017

To Whom it may Concern:

The Benson Free church has taken on, for the past four years the city wide Egg Hunt that had been sponsored by the City Chamber of Commerce for many years. Every child is welcome and every child will receive candy as they turn in the eggs that have been gathered from the lawn. This is a fun family event for the kids of our area. The church is asking for financial support in hosting this event on Saturday, April 15th. The egg hunt will be on the church lawn with the church providing the labor.
The cost of this event is estimated to be about $800. With about $350 for candy, $200 for prizes and $250 for the promotion of the event. Last year the city of Benson gave $800 in support of this community event for which we are thankful. This year the church is asking for the cities support with a check of $600.

Thank you for your consideration in helping us sponsor this city wide event.
The First Evangelical Free Church of Benson

Pastor Reed Egerstrom

Pastor Reed Egerstrom

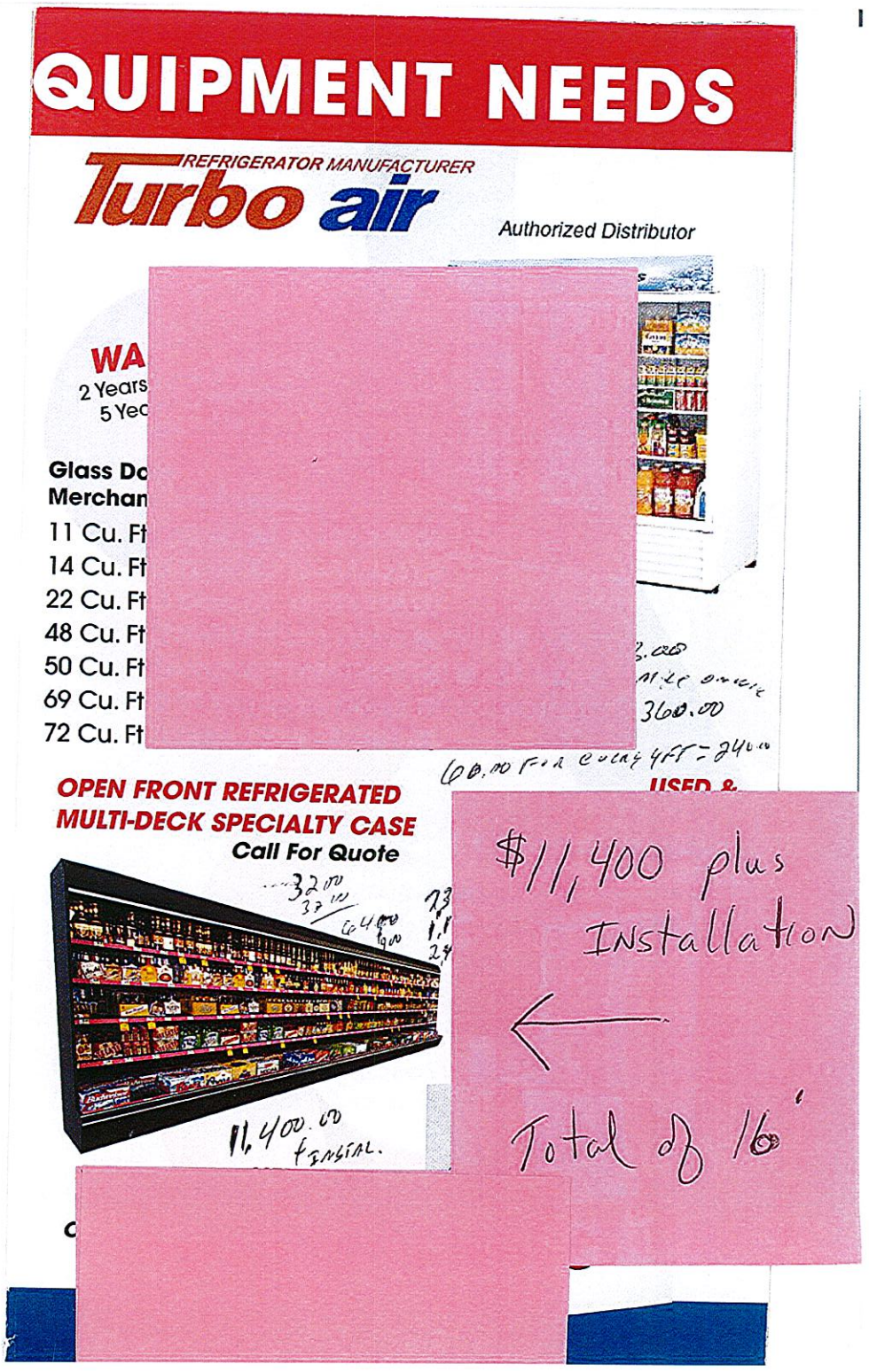
To: Liquor Committee
From: Glen Pederson, Director of Finance
Re: Agenda
Date: March 3, 2017

We have scheduled a meeting for Monday the 6th at 5 PM.

There are two items that we wish to discuss. The first being the purchase of a new cooler for the North wall of the Off-Sale.

There is a never ending need for more space to display product. Tom feels that this new cooler will help some of those needs and also be easier to stock. The cost is $11,400 plus whatever Craigs would charge to connect. The ice chest will be moved to a different location. It will be a much nicer display.

The second item is to review the letter from the MMBA on the recent passage of a MN bill that will allow the sale of liquor on Sundays.



Minnesota Municipal Beverage Association

INCORPORATED

An organization composed of the municipally-operated dispensaries of Minnesota

Box 32966
Minneapolis, MN 55432
763-572-0222
1-866-938-3925
Fax: 763-572-8163

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www.municipalbev.com

Date: February 27, 2017

To: MMBA Members, SMART Coalition Partners, Industry Participants and Legislative Supporters

From: Paul Kaspszak, Executive Director

The Minnesota Senate has passed Sunday Sales legislation.

The bill must be procedurally reconciled with the House version to determine the hours of operation – either 10 AM start (House) or 11 AM start (Senate).

The bill will then be sent to the Governor, who has indicated he will sign it.

I am confident we will be as gracious in defeat as we were in victory, and hope the proponents conduct themselves accordingly.

This is not a time to focus on the loss, but to look back and celebrate our accomplishments.

Over ten years ago, I heard a presentation from the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, the national trade association representing alcohol beverage manufacturers, proclaiming their plans to intervene in state legislatures, advocate against their retail customers and work to pass Sunday Sales legislation in all 50 states.

When I returned home, I wrote a memo predicting Sunday Sales would become legal in Minnesota within five years.

Here we are years later, and the legislation has just now passed.

The fact we were able to overcome this effort was significant, and we should all be proud of our efforts.

We were effective communicators, our positions were well stated and overall, I think we were treated fairly by the media.

Consequently, I'm confident most legislators in favor of the proposal knew they were negatively impacting small business and helping large big-box stores in order to appease constituents only concerned about their convenience, regardless of the consequences to others.

The decision making dynamics of this issue will be a great topic for a future academic case-study.

But now is the time to move forward, as there are continuing threats against the three-tier system of alcohol regulation.

These efforts would impact both on and off sale facilities and public health initiatives.

Alcohol continues to be a "controlled substance" and not a commodity – a fact often forgotten in these policy discussions.

It is a substance that can cause problems if used improperly.

Minnesota has a smart and balanced alcohol regulatory system that allows consumers great product variety, competitive pricing, and convenient access.

New businesses can enter the industry and thrive.

All of this while recognizing public health responsibilities.

Policy change based on short-term, self-serving arguments is not only irresponsible, but increasingly harmful.

We all must continue efforts to educate and influence policy makers on both the tangible positive aspects of our industry and the negative impact of certain changes.

In conclusion…

- Be proud of what you do!
- Be proud of what you have done!
- Be vigilant and participate – the world is run by those who show up!
- Be confident, because our cause is just!

Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.

~ Winston Churchill