

Timmins Taxpayers Association questions Sewage Treatment Plan Expenditures

The Sewage Treatment Plant Project is an example of how spending has spiraled out of control and how the taxpaying citizens are searching for the truth amongst all the rumors.

- April 16, 2009 – City is ordered to build the secondary sewage treatment facility with the government's stimulus funding.
- Mid April - End April 2009 – Genivar is awarded the tender and provides a conceptual grant application and preliminary estimate of \$60M. This was provided in less than 14 days in order to qualify for the next grand intake.
- September 2009 – Province confirms 1/3 funding (\$19.83 million)
- May 2010 – Federal government confirms 1/3 funding (\$19.83 million)

With the project being split three ways, this is an affordable project for the City of Timmins; however, problems quickly arise.

- September 2011 – Genivar's detailed design provides a new project cost of \$73.5 million with a 10% Contingency. The increase is attributed to upgrades on current equipment. It took eighteen months of detailed engineering work and over \$1 million dollars in consulting costs to arrive at the final design and a more accurate cost estimate.
- July 2012 – Construction tender awarded to North American
- September 2013 – Council learns about problems with geotechnical issues as bedrock is deeper than initial estimate. The price tag is now 81.9M.
- All requests for additional funding to pay for these increased costs are denied by upper level government since the original funding approvals specified that overruns from tendering or increased costs are ineligible.

This project has undoubtedly upset many taxpayers since we will have to absorb some of these over expenditure costs. Although the City is involved in litigation to recover some costs, the Taxpayers Association would ask for a review of procedures, policies and the roles that employees/contractors had in this process in order to investigate whether costs could have been better contained and accountability ensured. Also, moving forward, what procedures or policies will be put into place to assure taxpayers that we will not be burned again?