




## City of Hartford \* County of Van Buren \* State of Michigan

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**TO:** Mayor Hall and the Hartford City Commissioners

**FROM:** Nicol Brown, City Manager 

**DATE:** June 9, 2025

**RE:** **APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL OPERATOR & CONSULTING SERVICES, LLC CONTRACT**

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### **ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:**

The item before the Commission is to approve the contract with the City of Hartford and Professional Operator and Consulting Services, LLC (POCS) for the operations at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Iron Removal Plan.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The City of Hartford is currently without a wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) operator due to the expiration of the contract with the previous operator, who chose not to extend it. Additionally, the Iron Removal Plant (IRP) operator retired from the city in 2022 but continues to work part-time. I have been actively searching for a permanent operator for both positions since 2024.

Over the past year, I have been meeting with Quentin Clark, the president and founder of Professional Operator and Consulting Services (POCS). Quentin has over 10 years of experience in the water industry and holds a certification as a water operator. He has prior experience in the cities of South Haven, Dowagiac, and Niles, as well as in the villages of Cassopolis and Three Oaks.

POCS will hire WWTP operator James Jonatzke, who has more than 30 years of experience in wastewater treatment. He is a retired "A" operator from the Benton Harbor-St. Joseph WWTP. He previously assisted Hartford's WWTP several years ago. POCS currently holds contracts with the cities of Marcellus, Decatur, and South Haven.

POCS is proposing a one-year contract for \$150,000 to cover both the WWTP and the IRP.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The City of Hartford's city commission approves the contract with Professional Operator and Consulting Services, LLC (POCS). It authorizes the city manager to execute the agreement on behalf of the city.