

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 24, 2017

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, October 24, 2017, in the Authority's meeting room.

Present: Joseph Bonner, Chairman; Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; Timothy Hagey, Assistant Treasurer; Gustave Haun, Treasurer and William Evans, Secretary. Also present were: John Schmidt, Executive Director; Joseph Nolan, P.E, Authority Engineer; Thomas Hauser, Superintendent; and Joseph Bagley, Authority Solicitor. Lawrence Nuesch, Assistant Secretary was absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Cameron reported on behalf of the Facilities Committee that several Board members including Messrs. Bonner, Nuesch, Cameron, Hagey, and John Schmidt and Tom Hauser toured the facilities of the Warminster Municipal Authority. Mr. Cameron thanked Mr. Hagey on behalf of the Authority for the tour.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser reported that treatment plant operations were considered normal for the month of September. Plant staff continued to work with contractors to accommodate their work.

Precipitation: 1.35 inches

Average Daily Flow: 2.58 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 3.51 MG

The centrifuge was not operated for 2 weeks while the roof trusses and sheathing were installed on the centrifuge and dryer buildings. Last month, it was reported that a VFD was being priced. The Authority was able to purchase a refurbished VFD for significantly less than originally quoted. Siemens Technical Service programmed the VFD. Plant staff also installed a new wiring harness in the No. 3 module of the UV System. The Authority continued to haul sludge to the composting facility for disposal. There was a DEP inspection at the plant. No negative comments were received from DEP.

In the collection system, 18 hours was spent on TV inspections. The main and lateral at 18 W. Hillcrest was TV'd because it was encountering problems. A generator on truck No. 5, known as the welding truck, was serviced. Staff began moving the oil tank for the dryer to the barn.

There was a brief discussion regarding resurfacing roads and checking manholes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John E. Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt presented a grinder pump agreement for the Estates at Julius Farm, explaining that it was an older form of agreement so it needed to be signed by Mr. Bonner and Mr. Evans.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the health insurance renewal is proposed for a 13 1/2% increase. Medicare, Keystone 65 is proposed for an increase of 5%. Mr. Schmidt met with Fayez Elias and shopped for alternatives. None of the alternatives was better than the 13 1/2% increase from Blue Cross.

There was a question asked about the Authority's expense for the deductible. The deductible on the renewal has been increased, but the out-of-pocket max for each covered person did not increase. There was an extensive discussion regarding the total deductible expense for the Authority.

There was an additional question regarding whether the maximum out-of-pocket expense includes prescriptions. Mr. Schmidt responded that once the out-of-pocket expense of the employee reaches the maximum deductible limit, insurance covers 100% of the remaining expenses.

The discussion continued with regard to employee contributions increasing each year under the existing CBA.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to retain the Blue Cross health insurance plan. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt next presented the Authority's Revised Budget for 2017-2018. He reported that the auditors will be present at the next meeting to present their report.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the increase in Miscellaneous Income due to development activity and the receipt of insurance funds as a result of the fire loss in May. From the time of the Preliminary Budget to the Revised Budget, the Miscellaneous Income is up \$190,000.00.

Mr. Schmidt also reviewed Line 48 of the Revised Budget under the Operating Fund for sludge disposal, Line 39 for equipment maintenance and repair, Line 44 regarding natural gas being lower and Line 45 engineering costs increasing, all due to the fire.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed Capital Purchases of the Revised Budget for proposals such as the pickup truck, a forklift and a personnel vehicle.

Mr. Schmidt next reviewed Fund 3 particularly tapping fees. Line 135 for tapping fees was budgeted originally for \$200,000.00 and has been lowered to \$150,000.00 due to the receipt of some of the tapping fees.

Under Fund 3 Capital Infrastructure Projects, Mr. Schmidt highlighted Line 153 showing combined payments for debt and loan expenses.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve the Revised Budget for 2017-2018. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt reported that he had the roof of the truck barn painted because it was 35 years old and showing rust marks. The new paint should extend the life of the roof.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Hauser has been an employee of the Authority for 20 years and celebrated his anniversary last week. The Board offered him congratulations.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the proposed purchase of a GMC Acadia and discussed with the Board his test drive of it. Mr. Schmidt visited a COSTARS dealer in Quakertown where the vehicles in question range from \$29,000 to \$34,000. There was an extensive discussion regarding possible alternative vehicles, options, etc.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Evans and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to authorize the purchase of a vehicle for the Executive Director within 10% of \$30,000 at a COSTARS dealer. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt inquired whether there were any changes to the October 10 draft Minutes. No changes were offered.

There was a discussion regarding a holiday dinner in January.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Joseph Nolan, P.E.

Mr. Nolan reported that the roof of the centrifuge and dryer building is halfway installed. The Contractor is waiting for a “thimble piece” for the dryer stack to be delivered. The Contractor will then be able to finish the roof after the last week in October. Fireproof paint was applied to the roof trusses. Most of the perimeter roofing has been completed. Once the roof is completed, the Authority can start up the dryer. The conveyor for the dryer also needs to be installed.

With regard to the Phase III Project, a progress meeting was held last week. The project is still expected to be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Nolan expects site work to be completed next.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

For the November 8 meeting, the auditor will be present.
Mr. Nolan will also present the annual engineer’s report.

MOTION: It was moved by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to adjourn the meeting. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary