

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 25, 2014

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

No reports of Officers were presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports were presented. It was noted that a Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on April 8, 2014.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser stated that treatment plant operations during the month of February were challenging. Part of it was as a result of the scum freezing on the clarifier and snow and ice forming on top of it. The Authority did not reach 85% removal of suspended solids during the month.

Precipitation: 6.35 inches
Average daily flow: 6.64 MGD
Peak day flow: 11.9 MG

The Authority experienced a permit excursion for suspended solids with only 82% removal. Ammonia, phosphorous and nitrates were all good.

Routine maintenance at the plant was performed as scheduled. Mr. Hauser discussed the high suspended solids measurement. He discussed a plow that is typically used on the circular clarifier to remove scum but which is removed during freezing weather. When the flows come up very quickly (warm weather), scum tends to remain frozen.

Mr. Hauser reported intermittent power outages for a couple of days in February resulting in the generator running. A broken coupling on the No. 2 aerator was replaced and a broken chain in the rectangular clarifier was repaired. The temporary repair of a voltage switch for the influent screen was made. Flows came up rapidly on February 21 on the order of going from 10 to 15 MG in an hour. The plant experienced an issue with the Chalfont side influent gate closing when not called for resulting in a small SSO that was reported to DEP.

In the collection system, the pump stations experienced outages due to power outages caused by the weather. At Pump Station No. 6 the diesel pump did not prime when started. Crews checked for clogs but none were found. An SSO at Pump Station No. 6 was reported. The pump was taken apart to look for clogs, put back together and it started up. The No. 2 influent pump in Main Pump Station was tested for a possible problem, then sent out for repairs.

A discussion ensued regarding Pump Station No. 6 and checking for additional possible issues.

A question was asked about whether personnel were able to reach the plant in the snow. Most employees were able to reach the plant in the snow.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John E. Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt discussed the 2014-2015 Preliminary Expense Budget submitted to the Board. Mr. Schmidt reviewed a few items which were modified for the current preliminary expense budget including electrical power and plant engineering. Mr. Schmidt noted a change in percent for BCWSA from last year.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Rissinger to approve the revised Preliminary Expense Budget for 2014-2015. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt updated the Board on soliciting proposals for an electricity provider. He reported he contacted a PMAA-endorsed broker, On Demand Energy, who had solicited quotes from multiple suppliers. The price given ultimately through On Demand, from Washington Gas & Electric, was not as low as the proposal received directly from Constellation Energy. Mr. Schmidt received an updated quote from Constellation Energy which is 2% less than the current On Demand quote, and 27% less than the Authority is currently paying.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Rissinger to adopt the Constellation Energy proposal for a 4-year term at \$.06021 per kilowatt hour. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt reminded the Board that approximately 10-11 months ago one of the heat pumps in the administrative building went bad and was replaced. The second unit has now gone bad and the building is now relying on backup heat. A new heat pump will be needed.

Mr. Hauser received complaints from a nearby neighbor about brush cleared away from the area of the parking lot at the soccer field. Operators of the soccer field cut down trees and brush

beyond the parking lot area significantly reducing the buffer, the trees and brush, provided to neighbors.

After extensive discussion, a consensus was reached that Mr. Schmidt will correspond to the soccer league directing them to follow through with their request to plant shrubs and forsythia and also demanding that they not cut brush and trees except for that which actually encroaches on the parking area.

Mr. Schmidt inquired about those who will attend the May 15 PMAA dinner.

Mr. Bonner will be recognized as a 30-year Board member at the PMAA convention on August 25 and 26 in Hershey.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the March 11 minutes had been circulated to the Board.

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

Mr. Nolan reported that he received a letter from Carroll Engineering containing three (3) questions, each of which was generally related to the history of organic loading at the plant. Mr. Nolan reported that he responded in writing to all three (3) questions. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Jones currently have a meeting scheduled for Monday, March 31 on the issues raised by BCWSA.

Mr. Nolan will be submitting the Authority's annual wasteload management report for 2013 by March 31. Also, the NPDES permit expires at the end of the year and the Authority will be submitting a renewal.

Mr. Nolan provided a status of the startup process. Thomas Controls has been doing a lot of the electrical work that is needed for the actual startup. The startup commenced on March 17. The motor control centers were energized and tested. Power was applied to most equipment including mixers and blowers. They have encountered no significant problems yet. Mr. Nolan reported that Siemens will be back at the Authority on March 26 or 27 to continue the startup process. Once all equipment is tested, Siemens will start programming the automatic control system. Mr. Nolan also reported that the mixers are operating and the blowers will be operating likely by Thursday.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Joseph Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Personnel Committee will have a report for the April 8 meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary