

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 26, 2019

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, January 22, 2019, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

No reports were presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No Committee reports were presented.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Treatment Plant operations were less than optimal during the month of January due to excess solids inventory in the process. The Plant staff was unable to waste excess sludge at a sufficient rate due to operational problems with the sludge dryer. Control parts have been ordered and BSI is standing by to install them as soon as they arrive.

Precipitation: 5.3 inches

Average Daily Flow: 6.66 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 11.79 MG

There was an exceedance for total suspended solids of 39.2 MG/L over the limit of 30 MG/L. The other parameters were all within limits.

Mr. Hauser explained that two days in particular were the problem, including the peak flow day.

In the Plant, routine maintenance was performed as scheduled. The No. 1 equalization basin mixer 3 is out of service. A problem was discovered at the mixer. On January 4, three sludge holding tanks were filled with no more to waste excess sludge. On January 5, an instantaneous reading of 14.7 MG was measured.

The No. 3 utility water pump was pulled for repair because the top end came apart. A new diesel equipment fueling pump was installed on the emergency generator day tank. On January 20, the clarifier skimmer arm was found tripped out, the weir brushes got caught in the bars over the effluent drain; solids were building over the weirs to the effluent.

The anoxic tank B#1 mixer was pulled for repair due to an alarm detecting moisture in the motor; this was done to prevent burning up the motor. The dryer and centrifuge were operated on a daily basis to make room for sludge wasting to resume on a limited basis.

In the collection system, routine pump station maintenance was performed. One-calls were marked. Fleet maintenance was performed on all Plant vehicles. Five new tie-ins to the system were inspected. The road crew office was cleared out to start remodeling. New lighting was installed in the building.

There were questions from the Board regarding the total suspended solids. Mr. Hauser explained that the exceedance occurred because of an overflow of solids.

Mr. Hagey entered the meeting at this point.

There was a Board question regarding the solids and whether there were enough personnel at the Plant currently. Mr. Hauser explained that some days there are not but it was mostly as a result of the employee who usually tends to the dryer being on vacation for two weeks.

A discussion ensued regarding the need for a part-time electrician. Mr. Hauser is taking over for the vacationing employee. The crew is trying to get the problem cleared up using BSI. The dryer is running okay as of the day of the present meeting.

Mr. Evans suggested getting the Personnel Committee together to discuss long-range plans for employees.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt reminded the Board of an upcoming meeting by representatives of the Township Supervisors on March 18.

Mr. Schmidt inquired whether there were any changes to the Minutes. None were suggested.

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

Mr. Nolan reported that the remaining paving to be completed in the expansion and upgrade project is weather-dependent and he will communicate with the contractor regarding the possibility of beginning at the end of March.

Mr. Nolan reported that contact has been made with the County about the Pump Station No. 4 replacement project but the response from the County was not positive. Mr. Schmidt, Mr. Bagley and Mr. Nolan are working on the next step to address the County about this Project. Mr. Nolan has estimated that the cost to take the alternate route suggested by the County would add \$350,000 to the project cost.

Mr. Nolan reported that he and Mr. Schmidt met with representatives of a dryer manufacturer called Gryphon. The manufacturer's representatives came out to the Chalfont-New Britain facility and provided a plan to locate a Gryphon dryer within the physical limitations at the Plant. The owner of the manufacturer will be coming out to our facility. Mr. Nolan will perform a capital expense evaluation of a proposed new dryer from Gryphon as well as an operating expense evaluation. He mentioned a potential cut in operating costs. Mr. Nolan reported that in light of what has happening with the dryer, the Authority may expedite the evaluation process.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the dryer began becoming a problem in approximately October 2018.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hauser stated that hauling to a composting facility interrupts the flow of the sludge. The first step is to get the electrical components replaced by BSI.

There was a general discussion regarding the existing dryer and a proposed new dryer. Mr. Nolan estimated the cost of a new dryer being in the area of \$1.5 million. The existing Fenton dryer is 16 years old.

There was a Board question regarding the precise nature of the problem. Mr. Hauser stated that there is something in the controls that is failing. He explained why he does not have a current schematic of the electrical controls of the Fenton dryer. Thus far, BSI has changed a component and put a controller in. Something unknown at this time is telling the dryer to shut down.

There was a Board question regarding the length of time to deliver a new dryer. Mr. Schmidt commented that he would like to have an order placed by the end of the year. There has been an upturn in the amount of money spent on the Fenton dryer in the last few months.

There was a Board question about whether the shutoff of the dryer is captured on the SCADA system. The answer was that the dryer alarms are currently captured on the SCADA system.

The option exists to get a new model of the existing Fenton dryer, but it is currently being manufactured by a new owner who has not manufactured many of them under this patent. On the other hand, the Gryphon recycles the hot air, captures the heat and removes it and in doing so reduces energy costs. A Gryphon dryer is currently being installed in Pottstown. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Nolan are waiting to watch it in operation.

Mr. Schmidt suggested that there are some advantages to the new dryer. The process involves less tumbling and a lower temperature. In addition, the Gryphon dryer and the Fenton dryer, under the existing patent, are similar in price. All other proposals seem to be on the higher side compared to these two dryer models.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley had nothing to report.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was reported.

The Vice Chairman called for items for the next Board meeting agenda. None were suggested.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary