

**CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 26, 2019**

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, March 26, 2019, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

The 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**

The Personnel Committee met but there was no report to present at this time.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser**

Treatment Plant operations continued to be less than optimal during the month of February. The ongoing dryer problems are causing an excess inventory of sludge solids. The operation of the dryer for only 2-3 batches per day did not allow for continuous sludge wasting. Attempts were made to try to run overnight with operators voluntarily working the second and third shifts. The issues with the dryer did get corrected on Friday, March 1. Since March 1, everything is working without checking in at night.

Precipitation: 3.45 inches

Average Daily Flow: 5.71 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 8.99 MG

Total suspended solids, resulting from three bad days of sampling, will result in a violation. All other parameters were met.

In the Plant, personnel drained and inspected the grit classifier through which too much water was passing. Flexible line segments were installed in the FeCl<sub>3</sub> tank lines as required by DEP. A failed drive coupling on the No. 2 ditch aerator was replaced and a new spare was ordered. Personnel assisted with the collection systems office renovations. As reported earlier, normal dryer operation was worked on to restore some normality.

In the collection system, final meter readings were recorded. Five new tie-ins to the system were inspected. The Cycle C and D deduct meter list was read. The remodeling project of the road crew office was finished up. Four properties were posted for having an unpaid sewer bill. Wall repairs

were performed in the administration building. Mr. Hauser summarized by stating that most time in February was spent on the dryer.

Mr. Hauser added that one of the thickened sludge pumps was down. As it was being repaired, the other thickened sludge pump went down. He reiterated that they still had stored sludge to get rid of. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hauser confirmed that the dryer is still running normally up to the present since March 1. He did not know exactly what was wrong with it, but the malfunctions with it have been corrected without knowing the main, systemic problem.

Mr. Hauser set forth in detail to the Board some of the fixes that were necessary to get the dryer corrected to function normally. He also confirmed that he has notes on everything which has been performed with regard to the dryer recently. Mr. Hauser also discussed attempted fixes which did not address the problems encountered.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt presented the operations budget to the Board which is the basis for Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's bill next year. Mr. Schmidt reviewed a few items in the Budget that were tweaked since the last presentation of a proposed budget to the Board including wages, ground maintenance, and medical insurance. Overall, Mr. Schmidt expects the quarterly invoice to the Authority to be up about 2 1/2%.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority shareable operations expenses for 2019-2020. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt inquired whether there were any changes to the March 12 draft Minutes. None were suggested.

Mr. Schmidt reported that he had distributed a flyer for the PMAA conference in September. One member indicated interest in signing up. Mr. Haun is up for a 20-year award from the PMAA.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a Personnel Committee meeting took place prior to today's public meeting. A meeting between the Chairman of the Personnel Committee and Mr. Schmidt and a union representative will take place in the near future. The Authority's Collective Bargaining Agreement expires at the end of May.

Mr. Schmidt related that the Solicitor sent a letter to the County Solicitor in regards to the letter from the County Agricultural Land Preservation Program that the Authority received in January in regards to a possible easement for the Pump Station No. 4 Project. The Solicitor's letter was mailed on March 22.

A Board member asked a question regarding any necessary increases in the budget in regards to the upcoming new Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Schmidt responded to the question in regard to the Budget that a typical nominal increase in wages is built into the Budget.

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

Mr. Nolan reported that he is waiting for proper weather to complete the paving contract. He expects that to occur in the next month or so. Following up on the issues with the existing dryer, Mr. Nolan stated that he and Mr. Schmidt had previously met with Gryphon, a dryer manufacturer. The Authority has provided Gryphon with additional information regarding needs. The Authority staff is waiting for the go ahead to visit Pottstown to watch the Gryphon dryer in operation. Mr.

Nolan stated that the more he read about the Gryphon dryer features the more interested he was to see it in operation. A Gryphon dryer would require some special spatial accommodations in the dryer building.

The Pump Station No. 4 Project was discussed with the New Britain Township Board recently and they were asked if they would be agreeable to providing a letter of support.

Eric Rauch from CKS will attend the next meeting instead of Mr. Nolan.

Mr. Nolan acknowledged receipt of information from Mr. Hagey regarding a similar type dryer to the Gryphon dryer. Mr. Nolan remarked that the referenced dryer was more expensive thought it was similar in operation to the Gryphon dryer. Mr. Nolan also reported that he had received a copy of a comparison prepared by the Pottstown engineer of five different types of dryers. That information will be disseminated to the Board. Mr. Nolan also discussed a memorandum he had reviewed from a solicitor opining on obtaining the Gryphon dryer without bids on the basis of being patented goods.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire**

Mr. Bagley reported on the March 22 letter that went out to the County Solicitor, previously referenced during the meeting.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Nolan will not be in attendance at the April 9 meeting.

**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 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor  
and Recording Secretary