

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2019

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve the Board meeting minutes of July 9 and July 23, 2019. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

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.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Authority has advertised again for an electrician and a maintenance worker for the collection system, the latter because of an impending retirement. The need for an electrician was again discussed.

Mr. Schmidt reported on the plan for 8 proposed lots on Township Line Road in New Britain Township to be served by the Hilltown Township Water & Sewer Authority's plant located nearby. Both municipalities involved, New Britain Township and Hilltown Township, have approved the concept. Eventually, agreements will be forthcoming. It is envisioned that Hilltown Township Water & Sewer Authority would be a bulk rate customer for Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority. The property owners would still be CNBTJSA customers. There was a brief discussion regarding other, reverse situations in the Authority's service area involving Warrington Township, Hilltown Township and Montgomery Township properties. The 8 lots would be served with a grinder pump system.

Mr. Schmidt reported on the upcoming EPWPCOA meeting scheduled for September 20 at the plant.

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

Mr. Nolan updated the Board on the status of the Pump Station No. 4 Replacement Project. The County has approved the Authority's right of entry but no paperwork has yet been received.

Mr. Nolan reported that Requisition Nos. 200 and 243 for Capital Expenditures and Capital Improvements, respectively, have \$0 balances so no approvals are required.

Mr. Nolan presented an extensive report on the dryer replacement issue. Mr. Nolan reported that a 15-year life cycle should be the expected life of a dryer because of the temperatures involved and the amount of wear and tear involved. Mr. Nolan explained that CKS Engineers evaluated the alternatives including a no dryer situation. He explained that the evaluation group had several meetings. He reported that the group examined a GRYPHON dryer in operation in Pottstown and met with Fenton representatives. The Authority also met with a few engineers regarding dryer operations. Additional information was requested and received. Mr. Nolan described some of the constraints involved in the evaluation such as the existing building, the conveyor to the silo and certain other fixed points. Three dryer models were discounted due to size and high cost. One of the issues the evaluation group was attempting to address was the amount of energy wasted in the current Fenton dryer configuration as well as reducing safety hazards and the amount of dust and dirt produced by the existing dryer. Mr. Nolan noted that the heating system for the Fenton dryer was a cause of the fire at the dryer building in May 2017. The stack of the dryer was the actual source of the fire. He also remarked that there had been other local fires put out at the dryer building. Mr. Nolan described the operation of the Fenton dryer including the heating of thermal fluid by a gas burner and the tumbling and drying which created the biosolids. He described that the feeding of the biosolids to the silo and to an open building, and other parts of the process, which create dust.

The GRYPHON dryer operates at a much lower temperature because it uses a pressure differential to dry the biosolids. The GRYPHON dryer has little odor coming off the system because it is a closed system and it eliminates the dusty and dirty environment.

Mr. Nolan also evaluated the option of getting rid of the dryer altogether. Because the biosolids are undigested, they cannot be land applied nor sent to a landfill. There was an extensive discussion regarding hauling costs and disposal costs and dependency a single composting site. Eliminating the dryer would also involve modifications to the conveyor system for filling dumpsters.

Because the GRYPHON dryer involves a closed system, is cleaner, and provides safer operating conditions for the workers, CKS Engineers recommends the GRYPHON dryer.

There was a consensus of the Board to buy a new dryer rather than dispense with a dryer altogether.

There was extensive discussion regarding the GRYPHON dryer and the Fenton dryer on various questions from the Board regarding technical issues. One Board member's priority is to eliminate the dust and dirt. There were questions regarding the noise coming from a new dryer.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to authorize the Authority staff to initiate the process to obtain contracts for a GRYPHON dryer based on the recommendation of the Engineer. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

There was a continued discussion about the potential for noise and any such sound staying within the dryer building.

Mr. Schmidt explained that BCW&SA will share in the expense of the dryer.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gustave Haun

Mr. Haun presented the General Operating Expenses for the month of \$257,366.08. He noted no additional expenses for Capital Expenditures or Capital Improvements this month, and the payments towards the Loan of \$73,304.25 making the total expenditures for the month \$330,670.33 and he recommended payment of the bills.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to pay the total expenditures for the month of \$330,670.33. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun next recommended payment of Escrow Disbursements of \$9,533.07. There was a question asked about the Estates of Julius Farms for the Escrow Disbursements to Julius Construction.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to pay Escrow Disbursements of \$9,533.07. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley reported on contact with the County of Bucks regarding the Pump Station No. 4 right of entry. He indicated that he would be contacting the County again to obtain written authorization.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman called for items for the August 27 meeting. 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 5:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary