

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 26, 2019

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

Present: Joseph Bonner, Chairman; Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; 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. Gustave Haun, Treasurer was absent.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:00 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.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser reported that Treatment Plant operations were normal during the month with the exception of equipment failures. Mr. Hauser noted a slight phosphorous exceedance due to the temporary unavailability of ferrous chloride from our supplier. Mr. Hauser noted that he could not get ferrous chloride fast enough.

In the plant routine maintenance was performed as scheduled. The sludge holding tanks were emptied in preparation for the dryer project. Mr. Hauser discussed in detail a centrifuge control problem with the Number 2 centrifuge. A communications card was replaced and GFI breakers were tripping and they were replaced but the problem still exists. A bad power supply was found in the advanced back drive controller which was replaced but there was still a problem.

Mr. Hauser discussed the lift pump issue at the main pump station, the pump having been pulled for repair of the seal leak and it is currently in a repair shop. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hauser provided a detailed discussion of the centrifuge control problem including a probable cost of \$9700 to replace the operator interface screen in order to control the centrifuge. Mr. Hauser discussed his effort to minimize costs involved in replacing the touchscreen.

In the collection system, routine pump station maintenance was performed. Fleet maintenance on all vehicles was performed. Personnel inspected six (6) new tie-ins to the system and accomplished

various CCTV jobs with the TV truck. The Cycle B Deduct Meter list was read. Personnel began clearing rights-of-way as part of the normal maintenance program.

The Board asked a question as to whether the PLC's (Programmable Logic Computers) get captured by the SCADA System. Mr. Hauser answered that a small amount of data is linked to the SCADA System but significant control upgrades are needed for the centrifuges.

In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hauser stated that the newest centrifuge was installed in 2004 and the oldest one dates from 2001.

There was a general discussion among the Board and staff about a future capital project involving the centrifuge controls.

Mr. Hauser opined that repairs should make the control panel satisfactory for the present.

An additional question was asked by the Board about the lift pump issue and whether it involves a Flygt Pump. There was a discussion about repairs of the Flygt Pumps and a new repair shop being used.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt presented the Six-Month Revenue and Expense Report. He reviewed the year-to-date revenues and noted that the November revenues are not all in yet. He reviewed expenses and noted items such as the centrifuge issue and similar issues causing an increase in plant expenses this year. Mr. Schmidt reviewed the Fund 2 or Equipment Additions and Replacements Fund and noted in particular that the utility work truck which has been previously discussed with the Board and reported that acquisition of a new utility work truck would probably result in a shifting of the roles of some of the existing trucks at the plant.

Mr. Schmidt asked for any revisions to the November 12, 2019 Minutes. Mr. Hagey noted the elimination of one sentence which was the consensus of the Board.

Mr. Schmidt reminded the Board of the recommendation of the Finance Committee three (3) years ago for an increase in sewer rates between 2017 and 2019.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Bonner to increase sewer rates by 5% effective January 1, 2020 as more fully set forth in a handout provided to the Board. The Motion was adopted 5-0.

Mr. Schmidt discussed the holiday banquet schedule for January. After a Board discussion, it was determined that the banquet would be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2020.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Mr. Hauser has received the Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association Supervisor Award for 2019. The Board congratulated Mr. Hauser.

There was a follow-up to a previous discussion regarding the acquisition of a tree commemorating the late employee Herman McCarty, Jr.

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

In regards to the Pump Station No. 4 Project, Mr. Nolan reported that survey work for the base plans is continuing. He explained that once the base plans are completed the rest of the project will start to move more quickly. The survey crew is performing survey work.

In regards to the Dryer Replacement Project, the staff had a meeting with the electrical consultant today. Mr. Nolan received a revised electrical package from the electrical consultant. Submittals

received from the manufacturer have been accepted. CKS is working on the bid package for the installation. Mr. Nolan is estimating installation beginning in April. Staff is planning for the period of time when the Authority cannot be processing sludge and it will have to be shipped offsite.

Mr. Nolan noted that while the manufacturer and the contract had been let to the dryer replacement with the manufacturer, the Authority is also replacing the existing conveyors. The Authority has received a quote through COSTARS of \$229,600.00. The CKS estimated budget was \$230,000.00. Once approval is obtained, the conveyors would be fabricated ahead of the dryer. There was a discussion regarding various parts of the conveyors, including the feed bin, variable speed motors and customization to make it fit the dryer building. There was a discussion about the amount of sludge that will be processed per hour by the new dryer.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to authorize the purchase of the conveyors including the feed bin through COSTARS for a price not to exceed \$230,000.00. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley noted that he had received comments from the technology policies distributed at the last meeting. He asked for any additional comments to be provided to him so that he could provide them to Mr. Schmidt.

The Chairman called for any items for the December 10 meeting. None were suggested. The Superintendent's report will be provided at the December 10 meeting because there will not be a second meeting in December.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary