

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 11, 2020

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, August 11, 2020, 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 Joseph Nolan, Authority Engineer; Thomas Hauser, Plant Superintendent; and Joseph Bagley, Authority Solicitor. John E. Schmidt, Executive Director and Gustave Haun, Treasurer were absent.

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

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the minutes of July 14, 2020. 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. Bagley presented the report as a result of Mr. Schmidt's temporary absence.

Mr. Bagley reported that the Agreement between Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority and Chalfont-New Britain in regards to the Lohin Tract was complete and ready for adoption. The Agreement authorizes Hilltown Authority to provide sewer service to seven (7) lots within New Britain Township and regulates the responsibilities of the two authorities in regards to the Lohin Tract development. The Agreement also provides for a connection for one (1) additional property located in Hilltown Township.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the Agreement with Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Bagley next reported on the status of the Development Agreement and Reimbursement Agreement for the Mill Ridge Project. The Authority is currently waiting for a signed Developer's Agreement from the Developer. Following the presentation at the last Board meeting, the

Reimbursement Agreement has been updated to include a limit of a maximum of twenty (20) EDUs for reimbursement.

Mr. Bagley presented Escrow Account Nos. 122, 102, 127, 105, 106, 115 and 116 for closing. Mr. Schmidt communicated to Mr. Bagley that all work had been completed on these projects and the accounts were ready for closing.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to close the aforementioned Escrow Accounts. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser reported that plant operations during the month of June were poor. The Authority continued to experience issues with the bearings and couplers of the aerators, and the mixed liquor suspended solids levels rose because of dryer start-up problems. Because of these dryer issues the Authority was not able to dewater adequate amounts of sludge daily and eventually the Authority ran out of space for sludge storage.

Precipitation: 4.10 inches

Average Daily Flow: 3.58 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 6.08 MG

There were permit excursions for total suspended solids, NH₃, total phosphorous and fecal coliforms.

Mr. Hauser discussed the storage space issues. He extensively discussed startup issues with the dryer and the dewatering problems. He reported that there was a power outage on June 3 but that backup power was provided. Mr. Hauser discussed the drawings for modification of the aerators received from the structural engineer and a problem ordering a particular material as part of the replacement project for the aerators. Mr. Hauser explained the startup issues with the dryer and getting the dryer connected to the SCADA System hindering the dewatering operations on June 22. Overnight drying and dewatering operations began with shutdown alarms on June 23 and June 25.

In the collection system, they televised various jobs, read Cycle A deduct meter list, inspected manholes in County Line Park for an upcoming paving project. In Pump Station No. 6, a Wet Well Wizard (a small aerator) was installed to eliminate the adding of potassium permanganate (as a test case). A new dog-house manhole was inspected.

A question from the Board was posed as that if the system could be staffed 24 hours a day, could the Authority avoid experiencing permit excursions? The response from Mr. Hauser was that it would not have helped.

In terms of the ultraviolet system, tech support was called and was told that the earliest a technician could be onsite is August 18, but a technician arrived here on the 6th. There was a discussion about the bulbs for the UV System lasting about 5-6 thousand hours. Mr. Hauser has been purchasing non-manufacturer bulbs in order to save money. A representative of the manufacturer said that the manufacturer's bulb prices have been reduced. The manufacturer's representative said that if the date of installation is recorded and the bulbs purchased from the manufacturer burn out prematurely, the manufacturer will prorate the cost. The bulbs are designed to last one (1) year. A Board question was asked whether there could be a difference in the bulbs purchased by the Authority from the OEM specifications. Mr. Hauser replied he has been using these same bulbs for over 5 years without a problem. An additional question was asked about whether the effluent going

through the UV System showed any type of decrease in fecal coliform and the answer was affirmative. There are 320 bulbs in the UV System. Only 6 bulbs in the system are currently not lit. A fecal sample was taken yesterday but it still failed. An additional question was asked if the water being treated going into the UV system has a higher fecal coliform count than usual. Mr. Hauser responded that those rates for the UV are typical. He thinks the issue may have to do with turbidity.

A question from the Board was asked if the water being treated by the UV comes from the clarifiers, to which the answer was yes. That water does not contain dryer condensate, which goes to back to the head of plant.

A question was asked if the Authority is up to a full staff at this time following COVID-19 reductions. Mr. Hauser responded that all the personnel are back to work daily.

A question was asked whether there are any concerns about COVID in the waste stream. Mr. Hauser responded that no one at the Authority is ill. There was a certain explanation regarding splitting time in the lunchroom in order to social distance.

Mr. Hauser stated that there was a visit from DEP with 30 minutes notice last week. A question was asked whether he believed that the number of excursions reported caused the DEP visit? Mr. Hauser answered in the affirmative. Mr. Hauser also stated that DEP conducted a "virtual" laboratory audit during the August 4 tropical storm. There will be some protocols to add to the laboratory as a result of the audit.

A question was asked if we can't improve the process by putting staff on nightwork and whether that should be attempted. Mr. Hauser responded with a discussion of the needed repair of the aerators and the couplers. He discussed that he was "running all available equipment" 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to put dissolved oxygen into the water, however the ammonia "just kept climbing". In July, the Authority ran out of the ferrous chloride due to a delivery issue by the supplier. When it was finally delivered, the Authority only received a partial load. As a result, phosphorous is still out of limit in July. Mr. Hauser further explained that the drive chain in one of the aerators was bad, was replaced and now there is an issue with the gearbox in the same aerator.

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

In the bill list, there are final payments for the General Contractor and the Electrical Contractor for the Dryer Project which are 99.9% completed. Mr. Schmidt recommends processing the final payments but he will hold the checks for the last few items to be provided by the contractors. There is a change order in the Electrical Contractor's final payment. There was some extra conduit work and the furnishing of electrical panels in the maintenance building requested by the Authority.

There was a question about how the Authority processes time and material requests. Mr. Nolan stated that all time and material requests are based on documentation monitored by CKS. The Electrical Contractor change order is the only change order in the entire project and stems from actual requests by the Authority. Mr. Nolan recommended payment of the change order.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the change order from the Electrical Contractor in the amount of \$15,526.73. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

CKS continued work on the Pump Station No. 4 Project. Mr. Nolan met with Mr. Schmidt tweaking the location of gravity sewers. That project is progressing but has slowed due to the COVID crisis.

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 255 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$80,617.36 representing engineering for the Pump Station No. 4 Project and the Dryer Replacement Project, as well as the payments to the General Contractor and the Electrical Contractor for the Dryer Project.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve Requisition No. 255 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$80,617.36. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Timothy Hagey

Mr. Hagey presented the General Operating Expenses for the month of \$290,941.72 including the bill list, the previously-approved Capital Improvements and payments to the Loan Fund of \$73,304.25 and he recommended approval.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to pay the expenditures for the month of \$444,863.33. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hagey next presented escrow disbursements for approval in the amount of \$711.86 and he recommended approval.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve escrow disbursements in the amount of \$711.86. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

Mr. Bagley reported that there had been a flurry of correspondence involving the late Herman McCarty insurance claim among the Solicitor, the State Insurance Department and the Insurance Carrier, but the Insurance Carrier has not changed its position. Mr. Bagley stated that Mr. Schmidt requested that this matter be addressed at the September Board meeting so that he could be present for its discussion and any action.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman called for a decision on whether to hold the August 25 meeting.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to cancel the August 25 meeting. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary