

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**September 8, 2020**

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, September 8, 2020, 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. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 11, 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. Schmidt reported on the various land development projects underway in New Britain Township at varying stages of completion. Mr. Schmidt presented the Reimbursement Agreement for Mill Ridge and explained the operative language of the Agreement.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Nuesch and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve the Reimbursement Agreement for Mill Ridge. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt also reviewed the former Elaine's Lane development now New Britain Meadows. Mr. Schmidt explained the operative language and the facts about that development and presented the Reimbursement Agreement with a limitation on ten (10) EDUs for reimbursement.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Evans and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve the New Britain Meadows Reimbursement Agreement. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt also presented the Developer's Agreement for Mill Ridge which has not yet been executed by the bank.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the Developer's Agreement for Mill Ridge contingent upon approval and execution of the Agreement by the Developer's bank. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt addressed the Auditor's report from Bee Bergvall and explained that the Auditor's representatives were not appearing at live meetings yet due to COVID-19.

Mr. Schmidt reviewed certain highlights including the Authority's increase of net position of over \$1 million. An error was pointed out by a Board member on the colored charts where a total figure should actually read "2020". There was an extended discussion regarding a bank account reconciliation issue and a note in the Auditor's report addressing the issue. The discussion involved an accounting issue which the Auditor has been handling over a two (2) year period. Board members made various suggestions regarding rectifying the accounting issue/error. One Board member complemented the Administration on the expenses being handled well as reflected in the Auditor's report.

Mr. Schmidt turned to the year-end budget report for fiscal year 2019-2020. He reviewed Capital Funds, Operating Revenues, BCW&SA payment, Net Cash position, Fund 3, the cost of the dryer and the estimate for the Pump Station No. 4 Project of approximately \$2 million.

There was an extended discussion about dye testing involving BCW&SA. Different types of dye testing were discussed. Dye testing could be testing the accuracy of certain meters.

Mr. Schmidt noted that pay sheets had been distributed to the Board.

#### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser**

Mr. Hauser stated that Treatment Plant operations had improved slightly in some areas but declined in others in July. Dryer operations improved.

Precipitation: 8.00 inches

Average Daily Flow: 3.79 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 7.27 MG

In terms of process performance, ammonia, total phosphorous and fecal coliforms experienced permit excursions.

Mr. Hauser reported that work had begun in order to install the repairs needed to the No. 2 aerator. Ferrous chloride was finally delivered in September. Nine (9) loads of a new biosolids were delivered to a local farmer during the month. The farmer said that the new biosolids are "a lot lighter".

In the collection system, some lines were televised. There was air testing of an 8-inch line for the new Wawa. A manhole on Marian Drive was lowered to help with roadway drainage. Another manhole on Pueblo Drive was lowered. The 1992 Chevy Blazer was disposed of because it could no longer pass inspection and is no longer in use by the Authority staff.

A Board member asked a question about the wastewater being generated from Wawa. It was reported that approximately two (2) EDUs were represented by Wawa to be used. Mr. Schmidt also noted that a grease trap was installed at the Wawa.

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

Mr. Nolan reviewed with the Board that the Requisition for Capital Expenditures was in the amount of \$0 this month. Requisition No. 256 for Capital Improvements amounted to \$5,812.12

and involved engineering for the Pump Station No. 4 Relocation Project as well as the Dryer Replacement Project.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve Requisition No. 256 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$5,812.12. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan reported that a draft NPDES permit had been received from DEP by the Authority. The permits are good for a five (5) year period. The type of permit received is called "Pre-Draft" and would necessitate publishing in the PA Bulletin prior to being issued as an actual permit. Some significant limitations were imposed in the Pre-Draft permit. The biological oxygen demand (BOD) numbers were reduced by 60%. The previous seasonal limitations of 12 for summer and 24 for winter were projected to be reduced to 7 and 14 respectively. Also, new limitations were proposed for lead, aluminum, copper, iron and zinc. Authority staff met and discussed comments to be provided to DEP. Correspondence was issued to DEP criticizing the process being followed by DEP, including shorting the Authority on time to respond, ability to comment, etc. A supervisor at DEP admitted that DEP did not follow its own regulation for allowing comments to be provided by the Authority. There was a discussion led by Mr. Nolan about sampling for copper, zinc, lead, etc. A response to DEP about the Pre-Draft permit is being assembled by the staff. Options for the Authority were discussed.

Mr. Nolan reported that the Pump Station No. 4 Project is proceeding. He stated that he needed to look at other options in terms of routing and it is necessary to contact certain property owners to have discussions with them.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT – Gustave Haun**

Mr. Haun reported the General Operating Expenses for the month amounted to \$222,355.50, along with the previously-approved Requisition No. 256 and the amounts paid to the Loan Fund of \$73,304.25 for total expenditures of \$301,471.87.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the total expenditures of \$301,471.87. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun next presented escrow disbursements in the amount of \$40,804.89.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve the escrow disbursements in the amount of \$40,804.89. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

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

Mr. Bagley reported that the Release and Indemnity Agreement with the County of Bucks and New Britain Township for surveying for the Pump Station No. 4 Project expires on September 30 and, at the request of Mr. Nolan, Mr. Bagley had prepared an extension and submitted it to the County of Bucks and the Township. Each agency has indicated that the extension is on their respective agendas for meetings in mid-September.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Nuesch and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve the extension of the Release and Indemnity Agreement with the two (2) municipalities to extend the Agreement until March 31, 2021. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun made a motion to adjourn. A question arose as to whether “other business” was going to be addressed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Evans raised two (2) issues about wet weather sewer backups in the Borough- one by an Oak Avenue resident and another occurring in the train station. Mr. Schmidt stated that Authority staff had been in contact with both.

Mr. Evans also asked that an item be added to the next meeting agenda addressing the Authority being out of compliance for the last 4-5 months. Mr. Evans asked the Authority to take a long-range look at the equipment issues. Mr. Haun noted his agreement. Mr. Hagey also noted his agreement with getting the Authority into compliance.

A discussion ensued about the issues concerning CBOD and fecal coliform. Mr. Hauser addressed the fecal coliform issue in detail.

The Board asked questions of Mr. Hauser about dosage, extreme loads in the influent, attempts made to target the problem and related issues.

Mr. Hauser noted a specific problem in which an electrical board was indicating to the operator that the bulbs were lit but they were not lit. Therefore, the bulbs were changed out with new bulbs.

Mr. Hagey recommended that the staff get outside help on the fecal coliform problem. Mr. Hauser indicated that the Authority was looking at instrumentation now that the bulbs have been changed out. A Board member asked a question about adding chlorine and the response from the Authority staff was that a permit would be needed to do so and then the chlorine would have to be removed. There was no objection to the recommendation that the Facilities Committee do a walk-around prior to a discussion about compliance. It was recommended by Mr. Hagey that the Authority staff look for whatever resources they can obtain to figure out the process performance problems.

**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 6:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor  
and Recording Secretary