

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 13, 2020

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, October 13, 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 were absent. 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. Hagey to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2020 as distributed to the Board. 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

Mr. Cameron delivered a report on behalf of the Facilities Committee. The Committee (Mr. Cameron, Mr. Haun, and Mr. Nuesch) met on Wednesday, September 30 and toured the Plant to discuss some of the recent operational issues with Mr. Nolan, Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Hauser. Mr. Cameron described the tour as interesting and among other things they observed the oxidation ditch and the complexity of the situation involving the aeration problems. Mr. Cameron reported that the system went online in 1988. Mr. Hauser updated the Board on recent work to fix issues involving the couplers. Mr. Hauser described the aeration system as involving four (4) separate systems, each of which had different parts and formed its own system. Three (3) aerators in three (3) ditches failed. Mr. Hauser discussed the steps being taken to complete the repairs. He also discussed work on the UV System. Mr. Cameron described the meeting as informative and productive. Mr. Hauser hopes to have everything in place in the next 2 - 2 1/2 weeks. The couplings will be installed with a laser alignment. Mr. Hagey made a statement that he started hearing about an issue with bearings in late February or early March. Mr. Hauser stated that it took a lot of time to get the materials for repairs and eventually materials had to be custom-made. Mr. Hauser hopes that the fix being implemented will last for a 10-year life. Mr. Hagey stated that the issues involved are mission critical. If the Authority is having this problem again, the Authority should be bringing in outside help to fix the problem. Mr. Schmidt stated that the Authority is now having staff meetings including the Engineer once a month to review critical components of the Plant. Mr. Nolan stated that the staff anticipates that when the aeration issue is fully addressed, the UV issue will also likely be remedied.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt reported that the work truck ordered some time ago has been shipped to the truck body company in Chalfont.

Mr. Schmidt updated the Board on various residential developments.

Mill Ridge, with twelve (12) single family dwellings, is supposed to start putting sewer lines in this week. Mr. Schmidt is going to approach the Township about property owners wanting to connect to the new Mill Ridge lines. Mr. Schmidt reported that there are lateral stubs on Curly Hill Road as part of this Project.

The Lohin Project proposes seven (7) single family dwellings, with flow being pump to Hilltown Township. The agreement with the Hilltown Authority for sewage treatment has been signed. Other agreements and fees are still pending.

Chalfont Crossing, located at Bristol Road and Route 202, was close to being ready to start when the Project was sold to a different developer at the last minute. Chalfont Crossing involves sixty-one (61) townhouses. The new developer, Judd Builders, has established the professional services escrow. Other agreements and fees are still pending.

Schoolhouse Meadows, which involves twenty-two (22) townhouses, had sewers put in last winter.

Elaine's Lane also known as New Britain Meadows proposes four (4) homes which will require the use of grinder pumps. All agreements are in place and tapping fees paid. The project will be starting soon.

Mr. Schmidt also mentioned the new Wawa Project in which new sewers were put in.

Mr. Schmidt has notified the Borough that Mr. Nuesch's term is expiring at the end of the year.

Mr. Schmidt reported that he has received no questions from the Board regarding the distributed Auditor's report.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to approve the Auditor's Report from Bee Bergvall. The motion was unanimously adopted.

There was a discussion regarding holding the meeting on October 27, the second meeting of the month. The Chairman advised holding the second meeting of the month on October 27. Mr. Nolan's annual Engineer's report will be distributed and reviewed at that time.

Mr. Schmidt announced that the Keystone 65 Plan renewal had come in with no increase for the Authority.

In response to a question, Mr. Schmidt reported that the Authority is still short one (1) operations person.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser reported that Treatment Plant operations for the month experienced a couple of days of extreme flows during the August 3-4 time period.

Precipitation: 11.25 inches

Average Daily Flow: 4.53 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 13.47 MG

Mr. Hauser reported that the Plant received six (6") inches of rain on August 3-4 during a tropical storm and that for an extended period of time on August 4 over 20 million gallons per day of influent was received. Mr. Hauser reported that there were three (3) high samplings of total suspended solids during

the month causing the monthly average to be over the limit. Mr. Hauser stated that the rest of the numbers for the month speak for themselves.

Mr. Hauser reported that the materials for fixing the coupling issues have been ordered and the materials needed for the UV System have been received and installed.

Mr. Hauser further reported that the influent screen is out of service and the parts on the screen need replacement. Mr. Hauser stated that personnel are concentrating on the work on the aerators. They are continuing to work on the aerator repairs. The No. 1 aerator had a gearbox go bad, the Authority had an extra gearbox to use as a replacement but the base had to be reworked due to loose anchors. The gearbox that went bad is under warranty to the manufacturer.

The anoxic tank level flow meter went bad and had to be replaced. The meter is used for Plant flow control.

A technician was brought in to update firmware and remote PLCs for the SCADA system. At the same time, a technician was requested to set up a chart recorder to record biosolids temperatures for proof of compliance for purposes of an EPA report.

Mr. Hauser reported on dryer alarms which were minor.

On August 28, an overnight storm caused a power outage and knocked out the BCWSA influent meter.

In the collection system, routine pump maintenance was performed. Employees marked One- calls and read flow meters. Fleet maintenance was performed on all Plant vehicles. Personnel did storm sewer work for the Borough. Employees worked with Verizon to complete copper-to-fiber migration at Pump Station No. 6. A manhole was rehabilitated.

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

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 214 for Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$0.

Mr. Nolan next presented Requisition No. 257 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$11,538.20 representing engineering for the Biosolids Project and the Pump Station No.4 Project.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve Requisition No. 257 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$11,538.20. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan reported on the NPDES permit renewal. The authority staff are currently in discussions with DEP regarding the concerns we have with the inclusion of new discharge limits for certain parameters. The staff anticipate speaking further with them on the permit renewal next week.

Mr. Nolan reviewed the status of various projects at the Authority. The dryer is operating quite well for the most part. Sensors appear to be the only issues at this time. Mr. Nolan commented that the whole environment in the operation of the dryer is improved.

With regard to the Pump Station No. 4 Project, the staff is internally looking at options for the routing of the new Pump Station No. 4 lines. An easier route around the park is being selected and presented to the Township as an alternative to the original route. The Township has requested a lateral for a restroom in Veterans Park. The Authority will need an easement with the County. The Authority will also need four (4) or five (5) private easements.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Gustave Haun

Mr. Haun presented the General Operating Expenses for the month amounting to \$276,135.07. He reviewed the previously-approved Capital Improvements of \$11,538.20 and the Loan Fund payments of \$73,304.25 noting the total expenditures for the month of \$360,977.52.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve the total expenditures of \$360,977.52. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun next presented escrow disbursements in the amount of \$1,701.31 and he recommended approval.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve the escrow disbursements in the amount of \$1,701.31. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire

The Board moved into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation. The Board returned to its Regular Session at approximately 5:50 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Board will meet on October 27 and topics on the agenda will include the Engineer's Annual Report and the Superintendent's Report.

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 5:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary