

**CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY**  
**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 9, 2021**

The meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2021, by Zoom electronic platform pursuant to Act 15 of 2020 during the Governor's Declared Health Emergency due to COVID-19.

**Present:** Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; Gustave Haun, Treasurer; Timothy Hagey, Assistant Treasurer, William Evans, Secretary and Lawrence Nuesch, Assistant Secretary. Chairman Joseph Bonner was not present. Also present were John E. Schmidt, Executive Director; Joseph Nolan, Authority Engineer; Thomas Hauser, Plant Superintendent; and Joseph Bagley, Authority Solicitor. Also present was Sandra Pierce who was the host for the electronic meeting.

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the Minutes of the meeting of February 9, 2021 as distributed to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The only member of the public present was Supervisor Helen Haun who was providing electronic, technical advice to Treasurer Haun.

**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 less than optimum during the month of February. The Plant experienced high suspended solids in the effluent on two days due to high wet weather flow and a flow imbalance of the clarifiers which affected the weir loading rates.

Precipitation: 5.97 inches

Average Daily Flow: 5.82 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 15.3 MG

The total suspended solids were 41 parts per million whereas the limit is 30 parts per million. Routine maintenance was performed as scheduled in the Plant. The Authority experienced a clogged grit pump in the grit and grease building during the month due to stringy debris. The influent screen was out of service. Mr. Hauser reported that the Authority is awaiting parts for repair. An obstruction was cleared from the Channel Monster which tripped the unit. There was a DEP Plant inspection with no violations noted. BSI, Inc. was brought in to find and correct

DAFT No. 2 control signals problems. 540 cubic yards of biosolids were hauled to the biosolids sludge disposal facility because snow cover prevented land application.

In the collection system, routine pump station maintenance was performed. Fleet maintenance on all Plant vehicles occurred. The deduct and consumption meter list was read. Snow clearing at the Plant was performed. The Vactor truck was used to clear various sewer lines.

A Board member asked a question on how precipitation was calculated in terms of snowfall. Mr. Hauser stated that snowfall is collected in the rain gauge and melted down by bringing indoors. There was a discussion about this method and Mr. Nolan recommended that the current method of using a localized rain gauge be continued.

An additional question was asked about the Channel Monster reversing when it is jammed up. Mr. Hauser stated that the Channel Monster does indeed reverse when it is jammed but it only reverses for a short time before it tries to go forward again. Mr. Hauser also discussed the debris caught in the Channel Monster which tripped it. There was an additional question from the Board as to whether an alarm is activated when the Channel Monster jams. Mr. Hauser confirmed that an alarm is activated when the device jams.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Mr. Schmidt reported on and recommended the adoption of three (3) capacity approval forms for 118 Curly Mill Road, 179 Curly Mill Road and 63 Peace Valley Road. These connections are part of the sewer extension to the Mill Ridge Subdivision. Letters were sent out to local residents informing them that they could connect to the extended sewer system. In response to a question, Mr. Schmidt reported that all three (3) are single-family dwellings.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the three (3) capacity approval forms for two (2) lots on Curly Mill Road and 63 Peace Valley Road. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt next presented the 9-month Budget and reviewed same. In terms of the Pandemic, customers do not seem to have been impacted in terms of paying their bills on a large scale because revenues are at 77% over the 9-month period. Expenses are at 72% for the year thus far. Maintenance expenses are high because of the recent aerator repair work. Mr. Schmidt reported that the budget will be pegged higher next year to account for such maintenance expenses. Everything else is falling in line for close of the Year.

A question was asked by the Board as to whether all maintenance items are complete for aerators. Mr. Hauser reported that a third shaft still needs some bearing replacements. Steel has been ordered and some crane work will be necessary for the replacement. The major aerator expenses, however, have been paid for by now.

Another question was asked by the Board about the dryer feed belt. Mr. Schmidt responded that he is still working on seeking to have the manufacturer pay for the costs or some part of the costs for the belt adjustment. Mr. Schmidt also reported that the belt has been working okay since it was adjusted.

Mr. Schmidt noted an error in Fund 2 of the 9 month Budget with regard to two (2) expense items. Such errors will be corrected.

Mr. Schmidt noted that tapping fee revenues were up for the year.

A question was asked from the Board about existing capacity in the Plant for the Township and Borough. Mr. Schmidt, and also Mr. Nolan, responded that a theoretical number of EDUs is set forth in the Act 537 Plans of the municipalities. Mr. Schmidt responded that there are probably still “several hundred” remaining. The Authority’s Chapter 94 Report projects capacity for the next five (5) years, but that that capacity rises and falls periodically.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Allison Oldfield has reached the milestone of being employed by the Authority for 15 years. Mr. Evin Kimbel reaches his 1-year period of employment next week.

Mr. Schmidt noted that Treasurer Haun was in the office today to sign checks, and that Vice Chairman Cameron has volunteered to sign checks on Wednesday.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT – Joseph Nolan, P.E.**

Mr. Nolan reported on the Pump Station No. 4 Relocation Project. CKS has prepared an Act 537 Sewage Facilities Plan “Special Study” required by DEP for the Project. The Special Study proposes to relocate and construct a new Pumping Station No. 4 as well as additional sewer lines while the original sewer service area will remain essentially unchanged. Copies have been submitted to New Britain Township and Bucks County for comment. Mr. Nolan reported that once comments are received, the Authority can submit the application for a Part Two Permit (Construction) with DEP.

Mr. Nolan noted that Requisition No. 219 for Capital Expenditures has no dollar amount.

Requisition No. 262 for Capital Improvements is in the amount of \$2,473.00 representing design work on the Pump Station No. 4 Relocation Project.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve Requisition No. 262 for design work on the Pump Station No. 4 Relocation Project in the amount of \$2,473.00. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Joseph M. Bagley, Esquire**

Mr. Bagley reported on a Deed of Dedication and a Bill of Sale accepting dedication of Lot 30 (Pump Station lot) at the New Britain Woods Subdivision, along with easements and the public sewer system installed by the developer to the Authority. New Britain Woods is located at Barclay Road and Township Line Road and consists of 29 single-family dwellings.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to accept the Deed of Dedication and Bill of Sale for Lot 30, the associated easements and the public sewer system. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Gustave Haun**

Mr. Haun reviewed the General Operating Expenses for the month of \$226,106.23. He referred to the previously-approved Requisition No. 262 and Fund 3 payments towards the loan of \$73,304.25 making the total expenditures for the month \$313,550.48 and he moved to approve such expenditures.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the total expenditures of \$313,550.48.

Mr. Cameron had a question about the entry for Evoqua in the amount of \$25,498.41. Mr. Hauser explained that Evoqua is the old Envirex and the costs represent the payments for the purchase of three (3) aerator shafts.

The Motion was unanimously adopted by the Board.

Mr. Haun next presented escrow disbursements in the amount of \$533.60 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 \$533.60. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

The Board discussed whether the next meeting of the Board should be an in-person meeting.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to cancel the March 23, 2021 Board meeting. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

By a consensus of the Board, the next meeting of the Board on April 13, 2021 will be live at the Authority offices.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**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 5:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor  
and Recording Secretary