

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

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**September 14, 2021**

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, in the Authority's meeting room.

**Present:** Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; Gustave Haun, Treasurer; Lawrence Nuesch, Assistant Secretary; and William Evans, Secretary. Also present were Joseph Nolan, P.E., Authority Engineer; John Schmidt, Executive Director; Thomas Hauser, Superintendent; and Joseph Bagley, Solicitor. Joseph Bonner, Chairman and Timothy Hagey, Assistant Treasurer, were absent.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of August 10, 2021 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**

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 August due to a loss of consistent sludge/biosolids processing and aerator problems.

Precipitation: 8.9"

Average Daily Flow: 4.05 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 9.91 MG

Limits for total suspended solids, ammonia, total phosphorus and fecal coliform were all exceeded.

Mr. Hauser reported that a high clarifier blanket was found which was likely a result of backing off of wasting because of issues in dewatering and in the dryer building. Mr. Hauser explained various problems encountered during the month with the bearing and the centrifuge horizontal conveyor failing and an auger wearing a hole in the U-trough. The bearing was replaced and repairs were made in-house to the U-trough. The drive on the dryer discharge vertical conveyor damaged the stub-shaft and the gear-reducer keyway. A new aerator coupling was installed on the #6 aerator and returned to service. Mr. Hauser described in detail the problems with the conveyors, the drive key and the stripping out of the stub-shaft. The Muffin Monster in the WAS line was pulled for repair.

The seal failed and was leaking sludge. The old tile in the administration utility closet was removed. A new floor surface was applied by seasonal workers and the hot water heater and utility sink were replaced.

A new #1 lift pump was installed after experiencing problems with pumping. The problem turned out to be the variable frequency drive tripping due to over-temperature. The #3 lift pump was pulled because of excessive vibration. Sent out to have it more thoroughly checked. The contactor/starter for the #1 lift pump overheated and burned up. BSI made a temporary fix and ordered a new one along with the parts to repair the variable frequency drive. A problem developed with a crane in the UV building. D.R. Cordell & Associates was called in for the repair. New parts were ordered. It took five site visits to fix the problem. The problem with the crane contributed to the fecal coliform problem. The contractor was not getting adequate tech support from the manufacturer. The #1 aerator also went down during the month due to an oil leak that turned out to be a broken drain line.

In the collection system routine matters were all addressed. In addition, lines for the Mill Ridge project were jetted and televised as well as those for the Schoolhouse Meadows project (Main Street). The pump impellers on the two pumps at Pump Station # 8 were replaced. The Pump Station #8 Muffin Monster was worked on where it was found that new parts were not fitting together properly. The manufacturer sent out a whole new bottom end of the Muffin Monster. A new auto reel on the Vactor truck was installed. New brakes, tires and rewiring were installed on the tag along trailer.

A question from the Board was asked as to whether the repairs to the trailer were done in-house. The answer was in the affirmative.

A question was asked by the Board whether Flygt comes out to the plant. The answer was in the affirmative.

A question was also asked that if the Authority needs a heavy pump can the Authority rent such a pump from Flygt. The answer was in the negative due to the size of the pump in question.

A further question was asked as to what a Muffin Monster is. A Muffin Monster is a macerator of debris. It looks like it has saw blades. It is essentially a brand name for a particular macerator for a pump.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt**

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Authority finally received its discharge permit renewal from DEP. The permit renewal has a copper requirement which will eventually be a limit by the end of the permit. There is a reduced BOD level in the new permit. The Authority also has to test once a month for E. Coli.

As a result of the recent hurricane and flooding, the Authority received six customer complaints about sanitary sewer backups during the recent Hurricane Ida rainfall. Rich Heverly went out and visited each of the sites and took photos. Selective Insurance has been contacted regarding the

claims. The Authority's insurance representative says that because of the volume of water, the carrier is taking the position that there is no negligence on the part of the Authority. Selective will issue letters to that effect. It was suggested that we inform the residents of the possible availability of financial assistance from FEMA.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at approximately 5:18 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. The Board returned to its regular session at approximately 5:25 p.m.

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

Mr. Schmidt reported that a Soccer Association email had been received requesting permission – again – for the installation of portable lights at the Soccer Field. There was a discussion regarding the installation of portable lights. The conclusion of the discussion was that at the next meeting with the Soccer Association regarding additional parking (with the Township), the Soccer Association would be questioned as to whether they had run the issue of portable lights by the Township.

Mr. Schmidt announced that plant operator Joe Triola had celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of service with the Authority. He further announced that Leslie Truscott had served 15 years with the Authority last month.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT – Joseph Nolan**

Mr. Nolan provided an update on the Pump Station No. 4 Construction Project. He indicated that the Authority received the okay on a waiver of land development at the work session of the New Britain Township Supervisors. The formal approval will take place two weeks from yesterday. Even with a waiver of land development, Mr. Nolan noted that there are certain engineering items that need to be taken care of. The Authority is almost in a position to submit that 537 Plan Revision to DEP. The Authority has received the driveway permit from PennDOT. The electrical design for the Project has been completed. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Nolan participated in a walkthrough with PennDOT which resulted in some minor shifting of lines and the roadway. One remaining open issue is obtaining easements from the adjoining property owners. Mr. Nolan and Mr. Schmidt have to meet with property owners in the near future.

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 225 which contained no amount.

Mr. Nolan next presented Requisition No. 268 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$8,187.19 representing engineering and legal expenses in relation to the Pump Station No. 4 Relocation Project.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve Requisition No. 268 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$8,187.19. The motion was unanimously adopted.

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

Mr. Bagley reported that he is working on administrative matters with Mr. Schmidt which involves getting certain documents recorded in connection with to various land development projects.

**TREASURER’S REPORT – Gustave Haun**

Mr. Haun presented the General Operating Expenses for the month of \$294,044.55. He next reviewed the previously approved Capital Improvements along with payments to the Loan Fund of \$73,304.25 resulting in Total Expenditures of \$375,535.99 and he recommended approval.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Evans to approve the total expenditures of \$375,535.99. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun next presented the escrow disbursements in the amount of \$1,078.37 and he recommended approval.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the escrow disbursements of \$1,078.37. The motion was unanimously adopted.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The Vice Chairman called for items for the September 28 meeting. None were offered. A consensus of the Board was reached to cancel the September 28 meeting. The next meeting of the Board will be October 12.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor  
and Recording Secretary