

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 9, 2021

The semi-monthly meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of October 12, 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 not optimal during the month of October. There was a struggle with ammonia levels. Process performance exceeded parameters for total suspended solids, CBOD, ammonia, phosphorus and fecal coliforms.

Precipitation: 4.10"

Average Daily Flow: 3.71 MGD

Peak Day Flow: 9.55 MG

Routine maintenance was performed as scheduled. With ammonia going up again, ammonia causes a chemical reaction with ferrous chloride which in turn causes a coating on the ultraviolet bulbs. There was a discussion regarding the cleaning of the ultraviolet bulbs. The Authority experienced a rash of high torque alarms on the circular clarifier during the month, with the skimmer arm snagging, which bends and twists the arm. A temporary repair was made until further permanent repairs can be made. There was work performed on the #2 DAFT during the month where the head shaft and wall bearings were removed while awaiting parts. A new hydro-pneumatic tank for the #2 DAFT was installed during the month. A new motor contactor for the #2 lift pump was installed by BSI and the pump is at Flygt for repair. While BSI was on site they checked out a ground fault trip on the #4 pump controls though they did not find anything to pinpoint a problem and the fault did not reoccur while they were on site. More conveyor problems were experienced in the biosolids

processing system where a retainer bolt broke and allowed the auger to slide down the trough and rub against the end plate.

In the collection system, routine pump station maintenance was performed. Personnel assisted Performance Pipe Inc. during the lining of the sewer main across Route 152. Two new tie-ins to the collection system were inspected. Three manholes were raised for the paving project on Hilltown Pike. Emergency backup batteries were replaced for all six pump stations. Potassium permanganate tanks were taken out of service for the Winter.

The Board asked several questions. There was a question about how long it takes Flygt to repair the Authority pump. Mr. Hauser responded that he did not know but that there have been delays areawide as a result of the September 1 storm. Another question was how the UV bulbs are cleaned. Mr. Hauser discussed soaking them in a solution for 3 hours in an expedited process and he discussed another proposed method involving creation of a tank of cleaning solution. In response to a third question, Mr. Hauser stated that it has been great having BSI at the site when needed. He added that BSI has been very responsive when needed.

Mr. Hagey stated that repeated permit violations is unsatisfactory and that the Authority is responsible to make sure that the limits are met and to get results.

Mr. Hauser stated that the gear box that was pulled out is being replaced by one that is ordered and as well as one that was taken to a repair shop, but Mr. Hauser was later told that it is not worth repairing. Because there was no choice but to put back in the gear box which was making noises, it was reinstalled and it is now not making any noise.

Mr. Hagey repeated that going forward, he is hoping to see better results in terms of permit compliance.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt reviewed the budget reports for the Fiscal Year ending in 2021 and for the Fiscal Year of 2021-22. Mr. Schmidt reviewed expenses, capital funds, tapping fees and other topics. Mr. Schmidt reported that at some point in the near future, the Board is going to have to look at available plant capacity. There was a brief discussion about past rate increases. Mr. Schmidt discussed recent cost increases in general. As examples, he reported that natural gas prices will be going up, and the Authority also just received a surcharge for delivery of ferrous chloride. Mr. Schmidt made a proposed increase in budgeting for I&I repair to be performed during 2021-22. Mr. Schmidt also reviewed funds allocated for certain expenses such as a pickup truck and a forklift which had not yet been purchased. It was reported that there are no more capital contributions from BCW&SA in the immediate future. \$2,500,000.00 in expenses has been allotted for the Pump Station #4 project. There was a Board question regarding the timing of Pump Station #4 going out to bid. It is expected to be shovel-ready by the Spring of 2022.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at approximately 5:25 pm to discuss the proposed acquisition of easements in connection with the Pump Station #4 Project. The Board returned to its regular session at approximately 5:30 pm.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to acquire 6 easements in accordance with the recommendation of Mr. Schmidt on pricing. The motion was unanimously adopted.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the revised budget for 2021-22. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt next presented the Deed of Dedication and Bill of Sale for the Chalfont View project.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the Deed of Dedication and Bill of Sale for Chalfont View. The motion was unanimously adopted.

The Board recessed into Executive Session at approximately 5:35 pm to discuss issues related to sewer backups in connection with the September 1 hurricane and related attorney-client privileged matters. The Board returned to its regular session at approximately 5:51 pm.

Mr. Schmidt reported that New Britain Township kindly agreed to waive the \$1,200.00 fee for the Zoning Hearing Board application regarding Pump Station #4.

Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Cameron will attend the PMAA dinner, and Mr. Nolan and Mr. Hagey will also be present.

Following the discussion, there was a consensus of the Board reached to schedule the holiday party for the same location as in the recent past.

Mr. Schmidt reported that retired employee Rosemary Perrine passed away last Tuesday. A consensus was reached to send flowers to Ms. Perrine's funeral or memorial service.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Joseph Nolan

Mr. Nolan reported that the Act 537 Plan Special Study has been submitted to DEP and they are reviewing it. Following that anticipated approval, Mr. Nolan will submit a Part II permit application to DEP. The design plans for the pump station are complete. Specifications for the pump station are completed. There will be a future meeting with North Penn Water Authority and North Wales Water Authority regarding boring under their lines. The current design will be shown to the Water Authorities at that time. The Zoning Hearing for the Pump Station is scheduled for December 16. The PennDOT permit has already been received.

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 227 for Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$6,335.87 regarding I&I repairs.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve Requisition No. 227 for Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$6,335.87. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan next presented Requisition No. 270 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$4,135.94 related to Pump Station #4 professional fees.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve Requisition No. 270 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$4,135.94. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan next presented the engineers annual report. He reviewed treatment efficiencies, a summary of repairs, improvements to the biosolids dryer, cost sharing of the municipalities, expenditures of the plant during the year and the costs split with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority. The net amount due from BCW&SA is \$95,249.48.

Mr. Nolan reported that once the auditor's letter is received, it will be sent along with the annual report and an invoice from the Authority to BCW&SA.

There was a Board question regarding whether BCW&SA is doing any improvements to their system, and what recourse the Authority has regarding BCW&SA's flows being over its allocation. Mr. Nolan stated that BCWSA reports to us that they are doing some repairs to reduce flows and I&I. Any recourse the Authority has is stated in the Operating Agreement, and will be reviewed at the end of this year.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Gustave Haun

Mr. Haun presented the General Operating Expenses for the month of \$217,319.52. He reviewed the Requisitions for Capital Expenditures and Capital Improvements which were previously approved during the meeting, and he reviewed payments to the Loan Fund of \$73,304.25 resulting in Total Expenditures of \$301,095.51 and he recommended approval.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the total expenditures of \$301,095.51. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Haun next reviewed the escrow disbursements in the amount of \$3,475.79 and he recommended approval.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Haun and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the escrow disbursements of \$3,475.79. The motion was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice Chairman called for any business to discuss for the November 23 meeting. None was offered.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Haun to cancel the November 23 meeting. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

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 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary