

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2023

The meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on February 14, 2023 in the Authority's meeting room.

Present: William Evans, Chairman; Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; Lawrence Nuesch, Secretary; Timothy Hagey, Treasurer; and Preston Campbell, Assistant Secretary. Also present: John Schmidt, Executive Director; Joseph Nolan, Engineer; Joseph Bagley, Solicitor; and Tom Hauser, Plant Superintendent. William Muzika, Assistant Treasurer, was absent.

Mr. Evans opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

MINUTES

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to adopt the minutes of the meeting of January 10, 2023 as distributed to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Mr. Evans announced the Committee appointments by way of a document entitled "Committee Appointments 2023" as distributed to the Board. Mr. Evans also reported that Mr. Muzika is in the process of resigning.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

As previously reported by Mr. Schmidt, the water meter situation is in need of a Committee to make policy recommendations. The Chairman appointed Messrs. Hagey, Campbell and Cameron to an *ad hoc* Committee to meet with Mr. Schmidt about meters.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser gave his report as set forth in the written Superintendent's Report for January 2023. Treatment plant operations were not smooth during the month due to aerator problems but effluent limits were not violated. Routine plant maintenance was performed as scheduled.

In response to a question by the Board, Mr. Hauser provided a long report about aerators, bearings and couplings failing in two aerators. The manufacturer's representative selected the bearings, but they have failed after a short time (1 year and 2 years, respectively). A structural engineer is now involved. Mr. Nolan recommends going back to the original bearings. Plant operations in January were satisfactory. For February, ammonia is running high. The Board asked several questions, including whether Mr. Nolan has inspected the aerators, whether the shafts should be replaced, and whether more parts need to be kept in inventory. The discussion concluded that a structural engineer is going to inspect the problems and make recommendations.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- John Schmidt

The Board moved into Executive Session at approximately 5:17 PM to discuss agency business which, if conducted in public, would violate a lawful privilege or lead to the discovery of information protected by law and to consult with an attorney regarding information or strategy in connection with issues on which an identifiable complaint is or can be expected to be filed by DEP in connection with Correspondence from DEP dated January 27. The Board returned to its regular session at approximately 5:26 PM.

Mr. Schmidt next reported on the proposed bench to memorialize a former board member.

Mr. Schmidt had a conversation with the Township Manager at Doylestown Township and the cost would be \$3000 through Doylestown Township. Other options were discussed. Mr. Evans is going to explore the possibility of making a donation to a scholarship or science fair fund instead.

Mr. Schmidt reported that there will be a meeting with New Britain Township Supervisors and staff on March 6 if any Board Members are interested in attending. North Wales Water Authority and North Penn Water Authority reps will also be present at that meeting.

There was a discussion about reordering the seating now that the COVID-19 lockdown is over. No action was taken.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Joseph Nolan

Mr. Nolan reported on the progress of the Pump Station No. 4 Project. The Contractor is doing blasting within the Easement. Two pay estimates have been submitted by PACT ONE as an example of how much work they have done to date. They are working their way through Walters Road. A written notice of blasting has been sent to adjoining property owners and those requesting pre-blasting surveys have had them done. Complaints have been received from those outside the notice area. No one is reporting damage. The work is on schedule because the weather has been fair and the Contractor “moves right along”. In response to a question from the Board, some cuts are as deep as 20 feet. PennDOT has not issued a road closing permit for Barry Road.

Mr. Nolan reported on Requisition No. 242 for Capital Expenditures and No. 285 for Capital Improvements.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT- Joseph Bagley

Mr. Bagley had nothing to report.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Timothy Hagey

Mr. Hagey reported that the General Operating Expenses for the month amounted to \$335,004.31, the Capital Expenditures totaled \$15,619.23 and the Capital Improvements amounted to \$645,144.00, while the payments towards the Loan amounted to \$73,159.87 and along with escrow disbursements of \$1,568.98, the Total Disbursements for the month amounted to \$1,070,496.30 and Mr. Hagey recommended approval to pay the bills.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the Total Disbursements for the month of \$1,070,496.30. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hagey stated that the Authority had a long discussion about lubrication last month and a long discussion about couplings this month. He has been on boards for a long time at Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority, here and working with Warminster Authority. The issues this Board needs to deal with are the policy issues of how the Board can get the Authority to run more effectively. While mechanical failures are part of the violations noted by DEP, some things were just missed. The number of violations assessed by DEP is not acceptable. The absence of a maintenance supervisor at a facility of this size doesn't make sense. 180 violations are not normal. Mr. Hagey called on Mr. Schmidt to give the Board recommendations at the next meeting on how the Authority can improve. Something has to change. He suggests that Mr. Schmidt develop recommendations. Mr. Cameron agreed. Mr. Evans stated that he agreed with what Mr. Hagey said. Mr. Evans thinks it is a good idea that Mr. Schmidt and the rest of our staff and professional advisors develop recommendations. Mr. Evans discussed why his approach to solving problems was understanding the mechanics of how things are fixed, based on his previous business experience. Mr. Campbell agreed and questioned whether one person can do all the maintenance necessary and that there should be conversations as to whether we need to outsource some of the maintenance. Mr. Evans suggested that the next meeting be devoted to long-range planning to solve the Authority's compliance issues. There was also a consensus to cancel the proposed meeting scheduled for February 28.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:55 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary