

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 10, 2023

The meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on January 10, 2023 in the Authority's meeting room.

Present: William Evans, Chairman; Donald Cameron, Vice Chairman; Lawrence Nuesch, Secretary; Preston Campbell, Assistant Secretary; and Timothy Hagey, Treasurer. 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.

Mr. Evans congratulated Mr. Cameron on being reappointed by the Borough for another 5 years. Mr. Evans also acknowledged a note sent by retiree Lee Cressman thanking the Board for his retirement gift.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

In accordance with the Bylaws, the Solicitor temporarily chaired the Meeting. The Solicitor called for nominations for Chairman. Mr. Hagey **NOMINATED** Mr. Evans as Chairman. Mr. Nuesch **SECONDED** the nomination. The Solicitor called for any other nominations for Chairman. None were made. The Solicitor called for a motion to close the nominations. Mr. Hagey **MOVED** to close the nominations for Chairman and Mr. Campbell **SECONDED** the Motion. The Motion was unanimously adopted. By acclamation, Mr. Evans was elected Chairman.

Mr. Hagey **MOVED** to elect all of the same Officers elected in 2022 for the same positions in 2023. Mr. Evans **SECONDED** the Motion. The Motion was unanimously adopted. Mr. Cameron was elected Vice Chairman, Mr. Nuesch was elected Secretary, Mr. Hagey was elected Treasurer, Mr. Campbell was elected Assistant Secretary, and Mr. Muzika was elected Assistant Treasurer.

The Chairman announced that he would submit Committee assignments at the next meeting of the Board.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to appoint Joseph Bagley as Solicitor, Joseph Nolan as Authority Engineer and Bee Bergvall and Co. as Authority Auditor. The motion was unanimously adopted.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Nuesch and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to adopt the schedule of meetings for 2023 as distributed to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to adopt the Authority Fee Schedule as distributed to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

MINUTES

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to adopt the minutes of the meeting of December 13, 2022 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. Hagey reported on behalf of the Personnel Committee. The Committee met prior to today's Board Meeting and discussed non-union wages, salaries, and inflation. The Committee made recommendations about non-union wages and salaries and adjusting for inflation in 2023.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee in regard to non-union wages and salaries. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

There was a discussion about a one-time payment to non-union wage earners of \$1500 for inflation along the lines of cost-of-living increases in the 1970s. The discussion included recent Social Security increases at a rate of 8.7%. There was a discussion about the terms of the Collective Bargaining Agreement. No recommendation of the Personnel Committee was reached on this issue.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser gave his report as set forth in the written Superintendent's Report for December 2022. Treatment plant operations were considered normal during the month of December. Treatment plant parameters were all within limits. There was a fecal coliform reading outside of the range, but it did not negatively affect the mean average. Routine plant maintenance was performed as scheduled.

There was a discussion about the bearings in the Aerator #2 with 4 out of 6 bearings failing. A field service engineer was sent out by the manufacturer, and upon questioning, Mr. Hauser assured the Board that the issue about the bearings failing was not lubrication. The engineer, when asked, stated that the type of grease should not be changed. In response to another question, Mr. Hauser stated that there was a schedule for lubrication of the bearings. Mr. Hauser is exploring a new, more expensive type of bearing that has a marine application.

Mr. Hauser reported high flows in Upper State Road at a manhole that could have flowed out of the manhole, and he reported a sanitary sewer overflow to DEP accordingly.

DEP performed an on-site surprise inspection on December 30. No violations were reported.

There were no additional questions from the Board about the collection system.

Mr. Hauser was excused from the rest of the meeting due to illness.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt reported that Dukes has removed its measuring devices from the Collection System and their report is expected in 4-6 weeks.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve Resolution No. 2023-1 as to legal fees and the interest rate imposed for the Authority for 2023 as distributed to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a sewage capacity approval form was ready for three new lots and an existing farmhouse which were originally planned for onsite sewer at 98 Railroad Avenue, but which proposal was rejected by DEP and the developer is now seeking public sewer.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve sewage capacity of four (4) residential EDUs for 98 Railroad Avenue in New Britain Township. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Schmidt reported that he needs one of the existing Committees or a new Committee to discuss water meter policies for the Authority in regard to deduction problems and consumption problems.

A Board member inquired as to whether copies of the minutes are sent to New Britain Township and the Borough of Chalfont. Mr. Schmidt responded that he previously did so, but he no longer does so. The Chairman suggested that the Authority send minutes to each of the municipal managers. Mr. Schmidt acknowledged that he would do so.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Joseph Nolan

Mr. Nolan reported on the progress of the Pump Station No. 4 Project. The piping construction is still progressing but was halted during the holidays. The crew has hit some rock. The clearing work on the easement on Walter Road for the pump station the Authority is abandoning is about to take place. The pre-construction meeting for the general and electrical contractors for the pump station part of the Project is going to take place soon. The Electrical Contractor is Eastern Environmental Contractors and the General Contractor is Doli Construction. The Authority has previously purchased the pump control system and the backup pump and they are already on-site at the Authority Plant.

There was a general discussion about the need for the formal approval of the Requisition documents, as opposed to approving the Capital Expenditures and Capital Improvements along with the other expenditures of the Authority. Mr. Nolan stated that he would work with Mr. Schmidt to be able to report on the specifics of the expenditures and improvements, but a consensus was reached that the formal documents need no longer be approved by the Board.

There was a brief discussion of the information provided by the Authority to the Township for Pump Station No. 4, including review of the Plans by the Township Engineer, revisions at the request of the Township and the Zoning Hearing Board submission and approval.

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 241 for Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$8,078.56 for pump station odor control (aerator).

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Cameron and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve Requisition No. 241 for \$8,078.56. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan next presented Requisition No. 284 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$8,242.88 representing construction management services for the Pump Station No. 4 Project including, but not limited to, stake out, engineering assistance and the pre-construction meeting.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve

Requisition No. 284 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$8,242.88. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

The discussion about requisition documents continued. The formal documents will not be submitted to the Board from now on.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT- Joseph Bagley

Mr. Bagley advised that the lawsuit filed by Mr. and Ms. Hamme for a sewer backup at 73 Peace Valley Road has been concluded by settlement agreement. Mr. Schmidt advised that reaching out to the Hammes is on Mr. Heverly's list of items to do. The Hammes, and their relatives in a nearby dwelling, would be the last of the September 1, 2021 house backups to receive a backflow preventor valve.

TREASURER'S REPORT- Timothy Hagey

Mr. Hagey reported that the General Operating Expenses for the month amounted to \$315,100.86 and the previously approved Capital Expenditures totaled \$8,078.56 and the previously approved Capital Improvements amounted to \$8,242.88 while the payments to the Loan amounted to \$73,149.09 making the Total Expenditures for the month \$404,571.39 and Mr. Hagey recommended approval to pay the bills.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to approve the Total Expenditures for the month of \$404,571.39. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hagey next presented the escrow disbursements for the month of \$690.45 for the Authority, CKS Engineers and Bagley Law, LLC and he recommended payment of each.

MOTION: It was it was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Campbell to approve the escrow disbursements of \$690.45. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was a consensus of the Board reached to cancel the proposed meeting scheduled for January 24.

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 5:46 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary