

CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 28, 2023

The meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on March 28, 2023 in the Authority's meeting room.

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

No reports were offered.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Campbell to elect/appoint Mr. Sullivan Assistant Treasurer. The Motion was **ADOPTED** unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Executive Committee met last week with Mr. Schmidt to discuss plant operations and ways to avoid permit excursions. Inflow and infiltration were discussed and advancing the sewer ordinance was also discussed. Mr. Schmidt was asked to look at the budget and to plan for pipelining work this Summer.

Mr. Nolan is going to work on adding a clarifier.

The staff is going to come up with talking points about the permit excursions for use of the Board.

Mr. Schmidt was asked to come up with some plant goals.

Mr. Evans would like to talk to Mr. Heverly about the collection system and avoiding permit excursions.

Mr. Nolan advised that Mr. Matt Warfel of ARRO Consulting will be visiting the Plant at 3:30 on April 11 for a tour followed by his attendance at the Board meeting to meet the Board. Mr. Nolan discussed the integration of ARRO and CKS.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT- John Schmidt

Mr. Schmidt presented the Preliminary Budget for 2023-24 and sought approval of the BCWSA Shareable Operations Expense. Mr. Schmidt discussed the three parts of the Annual Budget, the Operating Fund, the Equipment Additions and Replacement Fund, and the Capital Infrastructure Fund. The quarterly invoice for BCWSA is up about 6 ½ percent. I & I (inflow and infiltration) work is proposed at \$500,000. The Pump Station No. 4 Project is projected to reach 3.6 Million Dollars, while only 3 Million was borrowed for the Project.

The Dukes Report was just received. It shows, among other things, that Brittany Drive is in need of repair, confirming suspicions of I & I in that area. Based on a previous project estimate from PPI, Mr. Schmidt estimated that it might cost about \$400,000 to \$450,000 to line all of Brittany Drive, including laterals and the main line. Mr. Nolan stated that he received the estimate of \$45 per foot in another municipality for main line only. Laterals are an additional cost. Mr. Schmidt will be meeting with PPI next week and will seek a formal quote. There will also be a Teams Meeting with Dukes to review the Report. There was a Board question about PPI's schedule. Mr. Schmidt responded that PPI likes to coordinate with other work they have in the region. A Board Member asked if the Authority should be more aggressive about I & I work. A question was asked about how much reserve funds we have for this purpose and if there is a standard for how much we should have. Mr. Hagey responded that the Authority has an operating revenue of 3 or 4 Million Dollars next year and "some people say 10%" of that should be held as reserve. In response to another Board question, it was stated that there are no big areas of I & I associated with pump stations. The new pump station will have a flow meter on it. There was a Board question about the budget and equipment repairs. Mr. Schmidt stated that he did not put as much funding into next years' budget for repairs in comparison to this year's spending for such item (\$450,000).

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Sullivan to approve the BCWSA Shareable Operations Expense for 2023-24. The Motion was unanimously **ADOPTED**.

Tapping Fees for this year and next year were discussed.

Mr. Schmidt announced that Jared Rush was advanced to lead operator trainee.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the Authority contributed \$1000 to the EPWPCOA Scholarship Program last year and the Program is appealing for a contribution this year.

MOTION: It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Cameron to authorize a contribution of \$750 to the EPWPCOA Scholarship Program. The Motion was unanimously **ADOPTED**.

Mr. Schmidt announced that the PMAA Region 1 Dinner Meeting is scheduled for May 4. Mr. Sullivan discussed the speakers and the topic.

A Board Member inquired whether the Authority had advertised for another operator yet. Mr. Schmidt responded that he had not done so yet.

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Joseph Nolan

Mr. Nolan reported on the progress of the Pump Station No. 4 Project. The Contractor has reached New Galena Road installing gravity sewer and force main. Mr. Nolan reported that he was meeting with Messrs. Schmidt and Hauser on Thursday to discuss potential long-term improvements to the Plant. In response to a question from the Board, Mr. Hauser responded that the rental aerators are working and ammonia is down. Mr. Nolan stated that he observed the supplemental aerators at another plant with the idea of considering them as a permanent installation at the Authority Plant.

A Board Member asked if the pipe work is on schedule. Mr. Nolan responded that it is, the Contractor is working efficiently and almost 40% was completed as reported at the last meeting. Construction of the Pump Station is not yet started.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT- Joseph Bagley

Mr. Bagley reported that he completed a draft of the metering agreement for customers and provided it to Mr. Schmidt. He also reported that he completed revisions to the Sewer Use Ordinance regarding inspection of sewer laterals but he wanted to look at the language a little bit more before considering it final and providing it to Mr. Schmidt.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Schmidt was asked if he had prepared speaking points for the Board. Mr. Bagley responded that he had prepared a rough draft of speaking points and Mr. Schmidt could add to it matters discussed in the phone call with DEP. Mr. Bagley stated that he would forward the rough draft to Mr. Schmidt.

A Board Member asked if Mr. Schmidt had heard back from DEP. He stated that he had not. There had been some discussion of DEP possibly eliminating some violations but nothing has been heard from DEP since the telephone call.

Mr. Evans stated that he would like to start relining pipes immediately.

Mr. Evans discussed that he learned that generally one violation may have the effect of causing multiple violations. One bad day or reading can cause 5 or more violations. DEP considers them separate violations.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:43 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor
and Recording Secretary