

# CHALFONT-NEW BRITAIN TOWNSHIP JOINT SEWAGE AUTHORITY

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 8, 2022

The meeting of the Chalfont-New Britain Township Joint Sewage Authority was held on November 8, 2022, in the Authority's meeting room.

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

The Chairman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

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**The Board recognized the passing of William H. Rissinger, 45-Year Board Member, educator, science fair sponsor, athlete, coach, Mason, model train hobbyist, avid sports fan and a very important member of the Chalfont-New Britain Community. Bill will be greatly missed but his hard work and outstanding contributions to the Authority continue to live on.**

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### MINUTES

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Nuesch and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to adopt the minutes of the meeting of October 11, 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

No Committee Reports were presented. Mr. Cameron previously expressed that he wishes to schedule a Finance Committee meeting in November.

### SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT-Thomas Hauser

Mr. Hauser gave his report as set forth in the written Superintendent's Report for October 2022. Treatment plant operations were considered normal during the month of October. Treatment plant parameters were all within limits. Routine plant maintenance was performed as scheduled.

A valve arm mechanism of the circular clarifier broke off and sank to the bottom of the clarifier, rendering the clarifier offline temporarily. There was an extensive discussion about retrieving and repairing the valve mechanism. Mr. Evans asked various questions about the repair, including how much sludge is covering the valve mechanism at the bottom of the clarifier, and the

possibilities of using a honey dipper or transfer pumping. Mr. Hauser explained that the shutdown clarifier does not affect plant operations right now and that repairs would be made soon.

A question was asked by Mr. Campbell about the auger on the conveyor breaking and whether this seemingly recurring issue is a design defect. Mr. Hauser responded that the auger which broke this past month is different than the auger which broke down previously and was replaced in the past. Mr. Hauser did note that the new auger part recently received as a replacement has an increased shaft diameter, in comparison to the original. Mr. Hauser expects the conveyor to be operational by tomorrow.

The Authority received a plant safety award from the EPWPCOA.

### **COLLECTION SYSTEM REPORT-Rich Heverly**

Mr. Heverly reported that marking for routine PA One calls was made in the past month as well as routine televising of laterals and mains. The force main for Pump Station Nos. 4 and 6 were located and marked in coordination with the installation of a new utility pole. A backflow prevention valve was installed at 207 Cornwall Drive, the last of the targeted laterals to have such a device installed except for two properties involving the outstanding litigation.

Dougherty Landscaping cleared 4200 feet of an easement, 15 feet wide, in less than two days. That activity provides the Authority with a benchmark on how much clearing Dougherty can do in a prescribed period of time. The piece of equipment that they used made light work of whatever was encountered within the easement.

Dukes was on site and installed their "I-Trackers" and started the "SL-RAT" study, the manhole scans, and installed rain gauges for the Brittany Farms and the Hellberg Inflow and Infiltration Study. Mr. Heverly noted that he and Mr. Schmidt are counting on flows to at least double at the Plant in order to get adequate readings for the latter Study.

Mr. Heverly reported that on Sunday night an alarm at Pump Station No. 2 revealed that a pipe from the 1970s blew out. The Pump was switched to the other side and by Monday a pipe on the other side of the station blew out. Franc Environmental was called in to pump out and cleanup. Authority staff installed all new piping inside Pump Station No. 2 except for the wall penetrations which still exists from the original installation, which will be replaced in the future. Mr. Heverly installed bands and flex tape to secure the remaining old pieces. Another pump is needed for Pump Station No. 2, which is now on order. The less-than-desirable location of Pump Station No. 2, in a backyard, next to a swimming pool, was discussed generally.

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

Mr. Schmidt presented a sanitary sewage capacity request for 27 East Butler Ave. for one EDU. The location is a barn to be converted into a single residence. There was extensive discussion about the location involving two parcels. Mr. Schmidt recommended approval but with clarification from the Borough about the specific parcel number involved.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Campbell to approve sewage capacity of 1 EDU for 24 East Butler with clarification about the parcel number involved. The Motion was adopted by a vote of 3-1, with Mr. Evans voting in opposition.

Mr. Schmidt reported that the action to be taken on the Warrington Connection Agreement has been postponed.

Mr. Schmidt reported that a reminder letter has been sent to the Borough regarding Mr. Cameron's term expiring after December.

Mr. Schmidt reported that he and Mr. Nolan will be meeting with Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCW&SA) about expanding the plant facilities in the future in relation to BCW&SA floating a bond. Discussion will include a new clarifier.

Mr. Schmidt reported that Mr. Nolan will be working on the recalculation of the Special Purpose Pump Station No. 4 Tapping Fee now that the bids have been received and are about to be awarded.

Mr. Hauser has also received an award from the EPWPCOA entitled the Robert M. Bolenius-Gordon J. Weist Clean Streams Award for unselfish contributions to Pennsylvania clean streams programs through promotion of operations excellence. The Board congratulated Mr. Hauser.

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

Mr. Nolan reported on the bid openings for the Pump Station No. 4 Project. He noted that he was satisfied with the bids received. He referenced the written bidding summaries which have been provided in advance to the Board. Mr. Nolan reported that the low bidder for the general construction contract for the Pump Station, Contract 21-1A, should be awarded to Doli Construction Corporation in the amount of \$336,221.00.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to award Contract 21-1A (general construction) to Doli Construction Corporation conditioned upon submission of all bonds and proof of insurance. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan next recommended the award of Contract 21-B (electrical construction) to Eastern Environmental with the low bid of \$174,100.00.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to award Contract 21-1B to Eastern Environmental conditioned upon submission of all bonds and proof of insurance. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan next recommended the award of Contract 21-2 (piping construction) to PACT One, LLC with the low bid of \$2,839,410.00.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Nuesch and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to award Contract 21-2 to PACT One, LLC conditioned upon submission of all bonds and proof of insurance. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

There was a general discussion of the pipe and force main routes for the Project. Mr. Nolan reported that he sent out notices of intent to award to the respective low bidders. The term of the contract is 240 days. Mr. Nolan also reported that the Authority is coordinating the Project with the Township.

A board member asked a question about whether PACT One has pipe. Mr. Nolan reported that they are in the process of making arrangements to obtain PVC and that if they are unable to get the specified pipe, they have an option to use alternative pipe.

There was a general discussion about the cost estimates for the Project. Mr. Nolan reported that the original estimate for the pipe contract was 3.2 Million Dollars, and the award was just made for 2.8 Million Dollars. Mr. Nolan stated that he was happy with these prices.

There was a brief discussion about the loan for 3 Million Dollars for the Project and the total awarded cost of 3.4 Million Dollars for the Project.

Mr. Nolan presented the Annual Report of the Authority Engineer. Mr. Nolan reviewed the specifics of the Report with the Board including facilities, personnel, inspection of the plant, exceedances, training, attendance at the Eastern Operator's Association meetings, performance, the split of flows, influent parameters, effluent parameters, maintenance, the Superintendent's monthly reports, improvements, including completion of the Pump Station No. 4 design, replacement of the main pump at the Plant and the updating of the controls at the Plant. Mr Nolan also reviewed the cost share with BCW&SA, the flow allocation, the ratio of responsibility for administrative costs and the calculation of how much it costs the Authority to treat wastewater (\$1.44 per 1000 gallons). Mr. Nolan further reviewed flow allocation and flow usage, the exceedance charge which the Authority or BCW&SA may be responsible for and the calculation of the surcharge for BCW&SA for the past year. Mr Nolan stated that the Annual Report is used to determine reconciliation of operating expenses with BCW&SA for the end of the Fiscal Year. As a result, BCW&SA will be receiving an invoice for expense reconciliation and flow surcharge for the past FY. BCW&SA pays for its operational share and 67% of the administrative costs.

Finally, Mr. Nolan reviewed the Authority budgets, the current rate structure, the insurance certificate, and the Consulting Engineer's recommendations.

**MOTION:** It was it was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Campbell to approve the Engineer's Annual Report as presented to the Board. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Nolan presented Requisition No. 239 for Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$0.

Mr. Nolan next presented Requisition No. 282 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$18,044.64 representing engineering and legal services as well as service fees for the Pump Station No. 4 Project.

**MOTION:** It was **MOVED** by Mr. Campbell and **SECONDED** by Mr. Hagey to approve Requisition No. 282 for Capital Improvements in the amount of \$18,044.64. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT- Joseph Bagley**

The Board moved into Executive Session at approximately 6:00 PM to discuss a lawsuit filed by Mr. and Mrs. Hamme for a sewer backup at 73 Peace Valley Road and to discuss matters which if discussed in public would violate a lawful privilege. The Board returned to its regular session at approximately 6:02 PM.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT- Timothy Hagey**

Mr. Hagey reported that the General Operating Expenses for the month amounted to \$285,916.75 and the previously approved Capital Expenditures totaled \$18,044.64, while the

payments to the Loan amounted to \$73,024.84 making the Total Operating Expenses for the month \$376,985.84 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 Operating Expenditures for the month of \$376,985.84. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hagey next presented the escrow disbursements for the month of \$55.20 for the Authority and Bagley Law, LLC and he recommended payment of each.

**MOTION:** It was it was **MOVED** by Mr. Hagey and **SECONDED** by Mr. Nuesch to approve the escrow disbursements of \$55.20. The Motion was unanimously adopted.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was a consensus of the Board reached to cancel the proposed meeting scheduled for November 22. The Holiday party will take place on December 8.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Bagley, Solicitor  
and Recording Secretary