

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
February 15, 2017**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitemarsh Township Authority on February 15, 2017, was called to order by Chairperson Timothy Ferris at 7:00 p.m. at the Whitemarsh Township Meeting Room, 616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

*Board Members Present:*

Timothy Ferris, Chairperson  
Carolyn Hanel  
Jonathan Riesberg  
Jeff Mitchell  
Jeannette Quirus

*Also in Attendance:*

Michael Sullivan, Private Utility Enterprises, Inc. – Authority Management Consultant  
Michael Clarke, Esquire – Rudolph Clarke, LLC  
Alexander M. Glassman, Esquire - Rudolph Clarke, LLC  
Allen Mason – Carroll Engineering Corp.  
Kyle Detweiler – Finance Director  
Robert Tagert, Operations Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Ms. Hanel and seconded by Ms. Quirus to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 meeting of the board, the motion carried 5-0.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

**NPDES Permit Renewal** – Mr. Mason reported that our five year permit expires in June of 2018. The Delaware River Basin Commission requests that applications for renewal be submitted a year in advance of the expiration date so the Authority will be submitting their renewal at the end of June.

**Delaware River Basin Commission (DRBC) Annual Effluent Monitoring Report** – Mr. Mason reported that he has submitted the annual report to the DRBC at the end of January.

**Wissahickon TMDL** – Mr. Mason reported that the treatment plant owners met in January to discuss the DEP's proposed consent order, which they unanimously rejected. Mr. Mason also reported that a meeting with stakeholders scheduled for February 9 was cancelled due to inclement weather.

**Chlorination/De-Chlorination Alternatives** – Mr. Mason reported that he forwarded his report to the Authority at the end of January. Mr. Sullivan reported to the board that making a switch from gas chlorine to liquid chlorine would result in a significant increase in operating costs on a yearly basis. A discussion ensued regarding the safety value of switching to liquid chlorine outweighing the increase in operating costs. Mr. Sullivan also mentioned ultraviolet light as another option to consider as an alternative to gas chlorine.

**Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission – Aqua Pennsylvania Application** – Mr. Mason reported that he forwarded his comments relative to the Commission's recent notice to the Authority at the beginning of February.

**Applewood Drive and Brook Lane Sewer Department Replacement** - Mr. Mason reported that he forwarded a summary of this project's accounting to the Authority on January 18. Mr. Glassman also reported that we are waiting until spring to release the remainder of the money to the contractor.

**The Reserve at Creekside (aka Creekside Commons)** – Mr. Mason reported that his firm is continuing to perform building sewer inspections on an as-needed basis and to date, 91 townhomes have been connected.

**McNeil-East Valley Green Road Force Main** – Mr. Mason reported that the contractors are still working on this project and are running into some issues with other utilities.

**Oaks at Lafayette Hill** – Mr. Mason reported that he expects the pump station to be completed by mid-April.

**Whitemarsh Station** – Mr. Mason reported that his firm is continuing to perform sewer inspections as needed, and to date, thirteen homes have been connected.

**336 Skippack Pike** – Mr. Mason reported that he spoke to the developer's engineer relative to his proposed PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit Application.

**737 Spring Mill Avenue** – Mr. Mason reported that sewer construction is complete and his firm will be performing sewer inspections on an as-needed basis.

**735 Bethlehem Pike** - Mr. Mason reported that he forwarded his comments relative to the revised plans and the PADEP Planning Module Mailer to the Authority and Township in the beginning of February.

**Home Properties (1101 E. Hector Street)** – Mr. Mason reported that the replacement motor for this pump station has been delivered and installed. This was the last punch list item which needed to be completed for this project.

**903 Spring Mill Road** – Mr. Mason reported that he received revised plans today and will review them shortly.

**60 Flourtown Road** – Mr. Mason reported that he is currently reviewing the sanitary sewer plans for this project.

**7102 Sheaff Lane** – Mr. Mason reported that he forwarded his comments relative to the proposed sanitary sewer service for this property to the Authority at the end of January.

**WASTEWATER MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Tagert reported that a concrete lid was delivered and installed in the pit area between the control building and centrifuge as a safety improvement.

Mr. Tagert reported that there was a backup on primary clarifier #2. The tank was emptied and the line cleaned. The clarifier is now working properly.

Mr. Tagert reported that all generators were checked prior to the anticipated snow storm.

Mr. Tagert reported that a pump failed at Pump Station #17. Flyght came out to evaluate the pump. Since the cost to repair the pump would cost more than the cost of replacing the pump, Mr. Tagert ordered a new pump.

Mr. Tagert reported that Comcast has been out to various pump stations installing internet and routers in preparation for the installation of the SCADA system.

Mr. Tagert reported that there was one SSO last month at 420 Ridge Pike.

Mr. Tagert reported that his staff has had concern over the poor lighting on the back of the jet truck while working at night. To help remedy the situation, public works has installed LED spot lights on the rear of the jet truck to improve visibility to motorists while driving by the work area.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

**Home Properties** - Mr. Clarke reported that he met with Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Mason to discuss the recapture agreement that was entered into regarding the Oaks at Lafayette Hill. Pursuant to the discussions, it was determined that Home Properties is entitled to reimbursement and a check was sent to them for the first portion of the recapture payment.

**Meeting with Financial Advisor** – Mr. Clarke reported that Mr. Sullivan and he met with Chris Gibbons, financial advisor to the Authority, to discuss some financial matters. Mr. Sullivan, Mr. Mason and Mr. Tagert will be meeting shortly to discuss a five year capital improvement plan.

**Conshohocken Brewing Company** - Mr. Clarke reported that Mr. Sullivan and he met with John Remington, owner of Conshohocken Brewing Company, on January 26 to discuss specific suggestions on how to address and fix the problems occurring at the Brew Company. Mr. Clarke informed Mr. Remington that if he has not taken any action to resolve the issues at hand by March 2, surcharges and penalties will start accruing on the Brew Company's sewer account with the Authority.

**MANAGER'S REPORT:**

**SCADA System** – Mr. Sullivan reported that all of the contract documents have been executed and the SCADA project will be moving forward very shortly.

**2016 Financial Audit** – Mr. Sullivan reported that Cathy Seiler was in the Authority’s office last week to begin the 2016 audit.

**Motion to Purchase Generator** – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to purchase a used generator from Toll Brothers, for an amount not to exceed \$9,900.00, carried 5-0.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Mr. Detweiler reported on the two larger invoices on the Bill List from BCWSA and explained to the Board that one of the invoices is the 2016 usage from Arlingham District and the other invoice is the 2016 flows to Pump Station #6.

**Approval of Monthly Expenditures** – A motion was made by Ms. Hanel and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to pay the expenditures and bills as presented in the amount of \$428,641.61, carried 5-0.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. was made by Ms. Hanel and seconded by Mr. Riesberg, carried 5-0.

*Minutes Prepared by Dottie Winterbottom*