

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
July 15, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitemarsh Township Authority on July 15, 2015, was called to order by Chairperson Carolyn Hanel 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:

Carolyn Hanel, Chairperson
Timothy Ferris
Jeff Mitchell
Jonathan Riesberg

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, P.E. – Carroll Engineering Corp.
Patrick Sarro, Wastewater Manager
Kyle Detweiler, Director of Finance of WTA

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A member of the public, Michaela Malloy, introduced herself to the Board. She expressed interest in filling the available seat on the Board.

CONFIRMED APPOINTMENTS:

None

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the Minutes of the June 17, 2015 meeting of the Board, the motion carried 4-0.

STAFF REPORTS

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Applewood Drive/Brook Lane Sewer Replacement Project – Mr. Mason reported that construction of this project is scheduled to begin tomorrow, which is a few days behind schedule.

Springfield Township – Regarding the invoicing for Pump Station #6, Mr. Mason reported that he and Springfield Township's engineer are still about \$7,000 apart out of approximately \$400,000 in

charges. Hopefully they will work out the differences in the amounts and this matter can be wrapped up within the next few weeks.

Bid Tabulations for Pump Stations 5A and 7 Upgrades – Mr. Mason reported that he opened bids for the upgrades to Pumps Stations 5A and 7. Mr. Mason stated there was only one bid for the General Construction Contract. This bid came from Blooming Glen Contractors and was in the amount of \$457,921.00. Mr. Mason also stated that there were five bids for the Electrical Contract. The lowest bid came from BSI Electrical Contractors and was in the amount of \$152,900. The next lowest bid for the electrical contract was from Lenni Electric Corporation and was in the amount of \$199,986.00.

Motion of Intent to Award Contracts for Pump Stations 5A and 7 Upgrades – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg of Intent to Award Contract 15-3, General Construction, to Blooming Glen Contractors in the amount of \$457, 921.00 and a motion of Intent to Award Contract 15-4, Electrical Contract, to BSI Electrical Corporation in the amount of \$152,900.00, carried 4-0.

WASTEWATER MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Sarro reported that there was a significant spill at Pump Station #3 due to roots in the line. Franc Environmental came out to clean it up. The lines will need to be retreated.

Mr. Sarro also reported that he was in contact with Mr. Mason to discuss other lines that will need to be retreated.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Springfield Matter – Mr. Clarke reported that, despite Mr. Glassman’s numerous attempts to contact Springfield Township’s solicitor, there has been no effort on Springfield’s end to respond to Mr. Glassman. As such, there is still no resolution of this matter at this time.

Davis Matter – Mr. Clarke reported that Davis’ attorney has offered \$20,000 as settlement of this matter. This money would be paid to the Authority at the time of settlement in September. Mr. Clarke feels this is a reasonable offer and should be accepted by the Authority. Mr. Clarke will prepare the release.

Revocation and Termination of Access Easement – A motion was made by Mr. Riesberg and seconded by Mr. Ferris to execute the Revocation and Termination of Access Easement and Right of Way between the Authority and National Label Company, carried 4-0.

Grant of Easement – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to execute the Grant of Easement between the Authority and Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc., carried 4-0.

Sewage Disposal Agreement – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to execute the Sewage Disposal Agreement between the Authority and Whitemarsh-Ridge Associates 2012, L.P., carried 4-0.

Settlement Agreement and Release – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to execute the Settlement Agreement and Release between the Authority, Whitemarsh Township, Allee Construction Services, Inc., William Peter R. Cross and Plymouth Crossing Associates, carried 4-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

Commercial Rate Structure Update – Mr. Sullivan reported that there have been numerous phone calls coming into the Authority staff regarding the new commercial rate structure. Some customers are unhappy with the new rate structure as their bill has increases, while others are very happy as their bill has decreased. The Authority staff has been providing the callers with the explanation of how this new rate structure is fair and equitable to all commercial customers across the board. The staff has also been referring these callers to the Authority's website for further explanation and clarification of the new rate structure. Mr. Sullivan also stated that the Authority has received two letters thus far from commercial customers unhappy with their bill. Members of the Flourtown Church of God, who wrote one of the letters, came to the Board meeting this evening prior to the 7:00 p.m. start time. Mr. Sullivan addressed their concerns and the group left with a better understanding of how and why the rate structure needed to be revised. Mr. Sullivan is responding to the two letters he received in the next day or two.

Personnel and Operations Update – Mr. Sullivan reported that he met with the operations staff of the Authority to discuss new contract terms when their old contract expires at the end of the year.

Review of COSTARS Quotes for Truck Purchases – Mr. Sullivan reported that the Authority would like to purchase two new trucks, a pick-up with utility body and plow and a crane truck. These trucks would replace an older crane truck which the Authority would still keep as a spare and also replace an older pick-up truck which would be sold on Municibid. A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to authorize the Authority to purchase two new trucks from COSTARS for an amount not to exceed \$140,000.00, carried 4-0.

Meeting with Township – Mr. Sullivan reported that the Township would like to transition all sewer related issues over to the Authority. This would include all building and sewer inspections, including new construction. The Township would also allow the Authority to perform grease trap inspections. Mr. Sullivan will coordinate with Mr. Mason as to how often these inspections should be performed. Once a plan is in place, the Township would like to be notified so they can give final approval.

TMDL and EPA Issues – Mr. Sullivan reported on the EPA's efforts to change water quality levels that are unrealistic and highly unattainable by municipalities. Mr. Sullivan suggested to the Board that the Authority join with the other municipalities involved so there is a group effort to try to defend themselves against the EPA.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Approval of Monthly Expenditures – A motion was made by Mr. Mitchell and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to pay the expenditures and bills as presented in the amount of \$150,303.83, carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m. was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, carried 4-0.

Minutes Prepared by Dottie Winterbottom