

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
June 17, 2015**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitemarsh Township Authority on June 17, 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:

None

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 May 20, 2015 meeting of the Board, the motion carried 3-0-1.

STAFF REPORTS

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Treatment Plant Upgrade – Mr. Mason reported that he is recommending final payment of the general construction contract and the mechanical contract. He stated there are only a few remaining punch list items to be completed.

Applewood Drive/Brook Lane Sewer Replacement Project – Mr. Mason reported that construction of this project will begin in about two weeks. Mr. Mason has been in contact with two of the

homeowners who will be affected by this construction and has been keeping them apprised of the schedule of the contractors.

Emerson/Hellman/Hillside Sewer Replacement – Mr. Mason reported that he has been in touch with Aqua as to the location of their water mains for planning and design purposes. Aqua stated they were planning on replacing some of the water mains in this neighborhood. Aqua indicated they would be interested in sharing some of the restoration costs with the Authority. Mr. Mason spoke with the Township’s engineer regarding their schedule for repaving in this area.

Springfield Township – Mr. Mason reported that he has a telephone call scheduled tomorrow with Springfield Township’s engineer in regard to reconciling the differences in the previous charges to the Authority. Hopefully they will come up with a mutually agreed upon final number.

Authorization to Bid Pump Stations 5A and 7 Upgrades – Mr. Mason explained that these pump stations are very old and in need of a general overhaul. In fact, replacement parts cannot be found for these pumps. As such, a motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg for authorization to bid pump stations 5A and 7 upgrades, carried 4-0.

Motion to Pay Joao & Bradley Construction Co., Inc. – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to pay Joao & Bradley Construction Co., Inc.’s Application for Payment No. 2 for Contract 14-1, Joshua Road Force Main, in the amount of \$148,741.98, carried 4-0.

Motion to Pay BSI Electrical Contractors – A motion was made by Mr. Riesberg and seconded by Mr. Ferris to pay BSI Electrical Contractors’ Application for Payment No. 13 for Contract 13-3, Electrical, in the amount of \$25,978.00, carried 4-0.

Motion to Pay Eastern Construction and Electric Inc. – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to pay Eastern Construction and Electric Inc.’s Application for Payment No. 7 for Contract 13-2, Mechanical, in the amount of \$5,911.90, carried 4-0.

Motion to Pay LB Industries, Inc. – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to pay LB Industries, Inc.’s Application and Certificate for Payment No. 16 (Final) for Contract 13-1, General Construction, in the amount of \$48,804.73, carried 4-0.

WASTEWATER MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Sarro reported that the Authority is in compliance with its ammonia level at the plant.

Mr. Sarro also reported that the Authority now has four certified operators.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Springfield Matter – Mr. Glassman reported that he has spoken with Springfield’s solicitor in regard to the Agreement that was sent to him. Springfield’s solicitor implied that he may have some minor issues with the Agreement. Mr. Glassman will follow-up with him over the next few weeks and hopefully this matter will be resolved by next board meeting.

Davis Matter – Mr. Glassman reported that he has spoken with Davis’ attorney and he will be sending Mr. Glassman an offer to settle this matter. Hopefully Mr. Glassman will have the offer by next board meeting so it can be discussed.

Cutler Matter – Mr. Glassman reported that they will be moving forward with litigation concerning one of the Stenton Avenue properties that was sold without the assessment charge being paid to the Authority. The new homeowner as well as the title company will be named in the lawsuit as they both were aware of this assessment charge at the time of settlement.

Sewage Disposal Agreement for 805-807 Spring Mill Avenue – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to approve and execute the Sewage Disposal Agreement between the Authority and AVA Landholding, Inc. concerning property located at 805-807 Spring Mill Avenue, carried 4-0.

Resolution 2015-5, Adopting Revised Rules and Regulations – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell to adopt Resolution 2015-5 which specifies that customers who are not connected to a public water provider will be billed at the sewer rate that was in existence prior to May 20, 2015, when the Authority last revised its Sanitary Sewer rates, carried 4-0.

Pump and Haul Agreement – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to execute the Pump and Haul Agreement between Highway Materials, Inc., WM. P. McGovern, Inc. and Whitemarsh Township Authority concerning Creekside Commons Subdivision, carried 4-0.

MANAGER'S REPORT:

PMAA Conference – Mr. Sullivan reported that the 2015 PMAA Conference will be held this year in Lancaster from August 23 through August 26. He stated that if any board member would like to attend, they can either make the arrangements themselves and the Authority will reimburse them or the Authority staff can make the arrangements for them.

Commercial Rate Structure Update – Mr. Sullivan reported that most of the commercial billing, except for Plymouth, has gone out under the new rate structure. Plymouth bills will be going out very shortly. The Authority staff has been receiving calls from customers with regard to why their bills are considerably lower and/or higher than usual. The Authority staff has been explaining the new rate structure to these customers and referring them to our website for further explanation. Mr. Sullivan also reported that this new rate structure transition seems to be going smoothly but Authority staff anticipates an increase in number of calls as more customers receive their bills. Also, a question arose from a caller as to whether or not a commercial property would be billed the flat water meter rate if the water was turned off and/or there was no tenant in the property for a specified period of time. The board discussed this scenario and determined there should be a turn on and turn off fee applied to these accounts in this situation. The amount of the fee will be discussed and finalized at a future board meeting.

BCWSA – Mr. Sullivan reported that he has met with the Bucks County Water & Sewer Authority to discuss issues related to the Pennsylvania Avenue sewer service area. A search of the Authority offices found volumes of documents, including agreements, relating to this area. After a review of these documents, the Authority will decide whether it's appropriate to continue to serve this area or find a way to transition it over to Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority.

Meeting with Township – Mr. Sullivan reported that he met with Rick Mellor, Township Manager, and Bob Hart, Chair of Board of Whitemarsh Township. They discussed issues such as how sewer related emergencies are handled after hours by the Authority. Mr. Mellor and Mr. Hart also spoke about possibly transferring all responsibility concerning the sewer building portion of new developments over to the Authority. Mr. Sullivan also spoke of the numerous calls the Authority staff is getting

regarding possible sewer service to Harts Lane. It will be beneficial to have a joint meeting with the Authority and the Township to talk about areas that do not presently have sewer service but could in the future if enough interest in a particular area is expressed.

Ambler Township – Mr. Sullivan stated that in the Ambler meeting minutes, Ambler reported a surplus in their operating capital budget. This could possibly lead to a refund for the Authority.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Approval of Monthly Expenditures – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to pay the expenditures and bills as presented in the amount of \$386,029.06, carried 4-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Mitchell, carried 4-0.

Minutes Prepared by Dottie Winterbottom