

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2024, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY II, THE ENGINEER, ATTORNEY FAGAN, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

#### SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

A moment of silence to keep Ray Clymer in our thoughts during his hospitalization.

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present at the meeting.

#### APPROVE MINUTES

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the July Minutes and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated July 31, 2024, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Kavitski made the motion to approve the Special Meeting Minutes dated August 6, 2024, and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

#### APPROVE JULY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the July paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$207,765.63, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$166,553.53 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2526-A).

#### CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$103,771.98 and T.E.A.M. Supply Invoice #2408-911517 Dated 8/21/2024 \$330.74, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$113,341.92, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$241.90, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2526-B).

#### FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2526-C.

#### ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2526-D).

#### Sewer Area

**-SIUA and sampling stations** – Chris Ferdik of HRG presented via Zoom. EPA officially approved the entire Industrial Pretreatment Plan on July 3, 2024. Resolution 1 of 2024 for the Authority to adopt the IPP was passed at the meeting on July 17, 2024. Attorney Malaska contacted the solicitors for Freeland Borough and Foster Township for their updates to their Sewer Use Ordinances. Attorneys and HRG are in the process of developing clean documents for each entity to adopt. Butler Township to adopt the same Sewer Use Ordinance is on the agenda for the Board tonight.

FMA is required to inspect Citterio's every year which is coming up in November 2024. Each Industrial User would be inspected once a year.

Sampling Station at Citterio no update since July 2024 report. FMA will check the flow data information which was all given in a letter to Citterio at time of inspection of the sampling station.

EPA Compliance – HRG issued a formal letter to document terminating PGA's IWD Permit (and informing of EPA's official IPP approval) on July 26, 2024, sent via electronic, certified and regular mail. HRG issued a formal notice document to Citterio on July 26, 2024, incorporating Citterio revised and IWD Permit (reporting due date changes) and mandating development of a slug/spill control plan with a draft submission required to FMA by August 25, 2024.

Civil Penalties/Fine Assessment, NOV issuance and cost recovery measure (letter/invoice) template was all discussed during a Teams Meeting with FMA & HRG on August 20, 2024. Special Counsel recommends starting off with small penalties and looking at the larger offenses over longer term to Citterio. Occurring violations with BOD/TDS/Oil & Grease from Citterio is ongoing and being over the permit limits. The High Strength Waste Surcharge can still be implemented. FMA could investigate cost recovery for all out-of-pocket costs. HRG will enforce it at FMA's direction. EPA First Annual Pretreatment Permit Due March 31, 2025. FMA is collecting samples for the reporting. Dental one-time compliance for EPA report. PFAS sources to consider for the NPDES Permit.

Mr. Kavitski is happy to finally have the full approval of the IPP from EPA. Good job to HRG.

- Sludge Dewatering Project** – HRG looking for an updated delivery date from Schwing, assuming September delivery date. HRG working through the submittals. Installing of a mag meter on sewer sludge line during the installation of the Sludge Dewatering Equipment with PSI was discussed. Ryan Smith and Brenden Miller have been obtaining quotes for installation and integration into SCADA System. Josh Fox stated the work should be done separately from the project.
- NPDES Permit Renewal** – No update currently.
- ACT 537 Special Study** – Meeting with PAWC this week and a share file was created to compare notes and share information.
- Sewer Rules and Regulations** – HRG sent the final draft of the Rules and Regulations last week which Attorney Malaska would like to discuss first.
- Dynamic Separator** – No update currently.

#### Water Area

-**Oak Street Water Storage Tank** – October 2<sup>nd</sup> is the current date for the PENNVEST Settlement. Bids were opened for the project on August 16<sup>th</sup> and the bids were for the General Construction Contract and Linde Corporation was the apparent low bidder at \$1,858,880.00. This was under projection from HRG, but the project did not receive any Electrical Construction Contract Bids. This will need to be re-bid and readvertised in the newspaper with bid closing on August 28, 2024. Recommendation to Award Linde Corporation for the General Construction Contract.

Mr. Kavitski inquired with HRG awarding the General Construction Contract when FMA does not own the land where the Water Storage Tank will be located.

Mr. Fox stated the Notice with Intent to Award allows HRG to get all paperwork in place and hold execution of the contract until FMA has the ownership of the land or have the actual agreements state they will be pending for the PENNVEST Loan closing and the acquisition of the land. This will allow the contractor to move forward with submittals. HRG has in the contract 120 days because of the PENNVEST Closing.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the timeframe for the breaking of the ground for the Oak St. Tank Project and Brenden Miller is thinking next spring/summer with completion early 2026.

-**Water Rules & Regulations** - HRG sent the final draft of the Rules and Regulations last week which Attorney Malaska would like to discuss first.

-**Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project** – Sikora Bros is delayed by a week or two due to the project they are finishing and they had issues due to Tropical Storm Debby. Start date is next week or the following week with the substantial completion date is still October 15, 2024.

-**SRBC Water Conservation Grant** – Mr. Fox discussed the SRBC Project with the leak detection and meters want to be sure all information can be fully integrated into the SCADA System and from SCADA into the Digital Twin. Working through the process and Bentley needs to answer a few questions but anticipate in September HRG will have quotes for the leak detection and smart meters for the Board's review with consideration of approval. Working with Bentley on the license agreement, HRG is reviewing a draft agreement with comments and quotes that should be presented by October. HRG is developing a system architectural plan for viewing to see exactly how it will all work together with SCADA and the Digital Twin.

Mr. Fox explained the Leak Detection System is acoustic. The vibration of the pipes will be measured from sensor to sensor for normal vibration and a leak would send out an alarm. There will be seventy-two locations for the sensors which are in the valve stem inside the valve box and no digging is required. The software could possibly predict when the next leak or main break would occur where and at what time. The more data comes into the system the better the system will become. The sensors will all be on a computer system like the SCADA system so you will be able to see the communication of all sensors. The

sensors will communicate via cellular which will be tied into the SCADA System through dark fiber or ethernet. SRBC has provided grant funding which is the very first project like this one. SRBC is very excited to see how the whole project will be tied together for leak detection. Freeland Municipal Authority will possibly become the trend setter with this system.

**-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study** – HRG submitted the Study to DEP on July 3<sup>rd</sup> and awaiting comments/updates.

**-PFAS, Iron and Manganese Treatment** – Water quality sampling has begun for preliminary treatment schematic, design and cost with the manufacturer AdEdge. HRG is looking for funding opportunities for this project. There is an LSA Statewide Grant opening in November which may be good for this project or PENNVEST has an emergent contaminant fund which may help with this project and could be eligible for grant monies.

Ryan Smith explained to the Board that the PFAS testing is quarterly, and the Authority does have a few wells with PFAS. Wells 9, 10, and 12 have small detection of PFAS.

Mr. Fox of HRG also explained to the Board the test results are below the state levels, but the federal government will be coming out with levels lower than the state requirements. HRG and the Authority are being proactive for this reason and have a funding strategy.

EPA is changing a lot of things requiring the PFAS requirements. EPA paid for two quarters of testing for the PFAS which DEP would not accept the test results at first but have since changed the ruling.

**-CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant** – Next round of funding for project is September 30<sup>th</sup>, HRG is looking into the Upper Lehigh Water Main Replacement and Tank Demolition. The drawback is the Authority cannot submit; only a Borough can for the Grant.

Mr. Kavitski inquired with the Board Members if the Authority would like to ask Freeland Borough to submit on behalf of the Authority. Board all agreed to inquire with Freeland Borough and HRG will bring a proposal for submission at the September meeting. Mr. Fox said confirmation from the Borough to see about supporting the project prior to moving forward with a proposal.

Mr. Fisher inquired about electrical drawings after any project is completed. Brenden Miller explained after a project is completed, the contractor needs to provide a panel schedule which becomes part of the records.

#### SEWER DIVISION

Approve the PENNVEST Payment Request #5 in the amount of \$4,551.50 for the Sludge Dewatering Project – Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2528-A).

Butler Township to approve the Sewer Use Ordinance for the Industrial Pretreatment Plan which was discussed at the Pretreatment Meeting. Mr. Kavitski asked for a motion to have Butler Township also approve the SUO for the IPP, Mr. Kavitski made the motion and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

#### WATER DIVISION

Recommendation to Award Oak Street Water Storage Tank-General Construction-Linde Corporation in the Amount of \$1,858,880.00 Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2528-B).

Kappe Associates, Inc.-CoStars Quote for Ixom WaterCare/GridBee Submersible Mixer GS Series with Control Box for \$12,300.00 – Brenden Miller of HRG stated this mixer is for the Oak Street Water Tank obtained the quote through CoStars so the exact model would be used, and this amount can be submitted to PENNVEST after loan closing on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and submit to Kappe after this date. Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the quote and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2528-C).

Resolution to Borrow-Borough of Freeland Municipal Authority Loan Number 12812 for the Oak Street Water Storage Tank – Mr. Thomas made a motion for approval and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2528-D).

Resolution-Declaration of Official Intent to Reimburse General Funds or Short-Term Borrowed Funds Used to Construct Improvements to its Drinking Water System with Funds Received from the Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority – Attorney Fagan explained to the Board this Resolution is to allow the Authority to obtain short term borrowed funds to pay for the Oak Street Water Storage Tank Project. Mr. Fisher inquired about short-term financing. Mr. Kavitski explained short-term financing is for the ability to pay the Contractors on time for their work just in case the funds are not received from

PENNVEST within the allotted timeframe. The short-term loan will only be for 59 months maximum and as soon as funds are received from PENNVEST the short-term loan is paid. The Authority applied for a two-million-dollar line of credit with First National Bank.

Mr. Fox explained a Bank normally would set up this type of loan because they know they will be paid back after the funds come from PENNVEST.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the resolution and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2529-A).

#### MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Managers Report. (Reference 2529-B).

Mr. Kavitski complimented the employees on the Well House Sidewalks.

Seal coat for the parking lots at office area. Ryan Smith recommends the verbal quote from Seal King at a cost of \$590.00 for the lot in front of the garage area. Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the quote and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0.

The upper garage area is getting a little crowded and the old trailer with stick welder is not being used; Ryan would like to place it for sale on Municibid. The Board all agreed.

Mr. Tierney inquired if there is any other equipment which the Authority does not use to add to Municibid at the same time.

Prep for the Somat Press to be added to Municibid, Mr. Kavitski recommended a Reserve List Price of \$20,000 and see how bidding goes.

Mr. Fisher inquired who would be dismantling the press and Mr. Fox stated PSI, the Contractor for the Sludge Dewatering Project. The Authority will tag what they need to keep, and the rest will go for Municibid for sale.

PTD Pole Survey Price Change from \$1250.00 to \$1375.00 – Mr. Fisher made the motion to rescind the approved quote from last month at \$1250.00 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the Pole Survey at the cost of \$1375.00 for the placement of dark fiber and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-C).

Discussion of SCADA Programmers for the Wastewater Treatment Plant New Sludge Dewatering Press—Keystone, Foytec and Black Birch Engineering. Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve Black Birch Engineering for the SCADA Programming Work for the New Sludge Dewatering Press at the expected cost is projected to be less than \$10,000.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-D).

Forschner Wireworx, LLC quote for LED Lighting in Press and Break Rooms for \$3,713.00, which is the fixtures, labor and bucket truck, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the quote and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-E).

M & J Excavation Quote for repair of manholes both located on Schwabe Street, one at 613 Schwabe and the other at corner of Pine and Schwabe Streets, the cost is \$5,000.00 per manhole, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the quote and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-F).

Mr. Thomas inquired if there is any type of warranty on the repairs for the manholes and Ryan Smith said he will check with M & J Excavation.

PSI Pumping Solutions Inc., the quote for installation of the Mag Meter at the Primary Sludge Line for \$2,525.00, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the quote and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-G).

The Authority will supply materials for the installation, Moyer Instruments will do the setup and calibration after the installation.

Mud Mixer, concrete mixer for the manhole repairs, a quote for \$3,720.00, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-H).

Ductless Mini Split Units the quotes should be available for September Meeting.

#### ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #184180 \$1,128.00; Invoice #184181 \$1,438.00; Invoice #184755 \$3,423.50; Invoice #184756 \$8,801.01; Invoice #184757 \$4,114.36; Invoice #184758 \$12,449.50; Invoice #185209 \$2,778.50; Invoice #185210 \$798.00; and Invoice #185397 \$ 871.00 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2529-I).

#### ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Malaska's report for the meeting was read into record. (Reference 2529-J).

Attorney Fagan stated he will be picking up tomorrow the Subdivision and Land Development Plans which were signed by the Planning Commission, Foster Township Supervisors and Jeddo Highland. On Friday,

the plans will be recorded at the Luzerne County Courthouse and then a Deed with a drawing attached to it, being done by Dave Swisher at Jeddo Highland and Covenant Abstract will do the closing for the land purchase. By the end of this month, the Authority should own the property.

#### OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Q-Mation, Wonderware software for the SCADA System, annual renewal is \$6,446.00, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2530-A).

Mr. Kavitski informed the Board that the IT Company Garland has new server upgrade completed. Martin Auman of Keystone Engineering is installing the software onto the new SCADA server.

Equipment Use Agreement was discussed to include all equipment or only vehicles. The Board agreed to the Equipment Use Agreement to state all equipment and vehicles and have a sign out sheet or log book for which piece of equipment is being borrowed at that time.


Mr. Tierney made a motion to accept the resignation with regret from John Natafalusy, Part Time Summer Help due to health reasons, and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2530-B).

Cintas Uniforms, the contract renewal due, rental agreement or lease agreement, weekly rental right now. The Authority is charged for all pieces of clothing the employees have no matter if they are turned in for washing or not. With a lease agreement the price will decrease by around 55% per week. The employees do not turn the items into Cintas for washing. Clothing that needs resizing, repairs, or a stain which cannot be removed by washing at home, Cintas will continue to do with no charge to the Authority. There is also a washer and dryer at the Authority Office for their use. Mr. Tierney made the motion to sign a lease agreement and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2530-C).

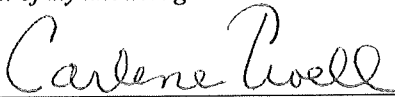
#### ADJOURN

Mr. Tierney made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

*These minutes are certified true and correct to the best of my knowledge.*

  
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Paul Thomas, Secretary

  
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Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary