

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2023, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY II, MR. CLYMER, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER, THE ENGINEER, THE ATTORNEY, AND THE SECRETARY.

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

Moment of silence for the young lady who passed away in the accident on I-80 East today.

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens present.

#### APPROVE NOVEMBER MINUTES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the November minutes and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

#### APPROVE NOVEMBER PAID INVOICES

Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the November paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$161,926.00, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$153,627.14 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2470-A).

#### CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$85,926.43, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$95,342.19, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$4,020.81 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2470-B).

#### FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2470-C.

2024 Water Budget is set at \$1,406,250.00 for the year with an increase of \$5.00 for the flat fee, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2470-D).

Sampling and testing, especially for the PFAS, is \$13,000.00 for the year. Mr. Tierney inquired if there are waiver programs in place and Mr. Kavitski explained some things for testing can be waived but first-time testing for anything is mandatory. Water Budget next year will need to be adjusted for the Oak Street Tank Project per Mr. Kavitski.

2024 Sewer Budget is set at \$1,977,000.00 for the year with an increase of \$5.00 per EDU. This amount includes the PENNVEST loan payment for the Sludge Dewatering Equipment. Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2470-E).

Regarding Sandy Run, The Authority will send another letter to Foster Township Supervisors regarding the issues at this system. The Board will attend the meeting in February and the Authority will request to be put on the Foster Township Agenda. (Reference 2470-F).

Sandy Run will have a revolving line of credit with the Authority. The Authority needs to pay the bill, but the cost is being paid out of the Water Division of Freeland because Sandy Run does not have enough revenue to pay for larger items. The Authority will determine a timeframe later for a loan term and this will determine how much the monthly payment will be among the households in Sandy Run. The Authority has tried for Grant Funding to no avail.

Sandy Run for 2024 will increase to \$5.00 per month at this time. Mr. Tierney made a motion for a 10-year agreement to repay for items needed and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

The Authority did contact Senator Argall and Representative Cabell with no help to obtain grant money. A copy of the letter to the Sandy Run Residents will be sent to both officials and Foster Township Supervisors.

Mr. Kavitski informed the Board of Directors regarding the Johnson & Birkbeck Street Property. A letter was supposed to be sent to the property owner regarding the removal of the tanks or NOV would be issued per DEP. The Authority has not been informed of any updates. The property could become a hazard for the water system here in Freeland.

## SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2471-A).

### Sewer Area

- SIUA and sampling stations** – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed via Zoom, the pretreatment program. Citterio has responded to the NOV's. PGA and Citterio need to respond to the monthly reports which were due on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Reminders were sent to both industrial users via email from the Technical Manager, Ryan Smith, and no responses from either industrial user. Mr. Ferdik stated a paper trail needs to be kept. Sampling needs to be completed by both parties. EPA needs to complete the review of the Pretreatment Plan. Mr. Kavitski did inquire if the Authority would be able to fine retroactively and Mr. Ferdik stated he will discuss this question with the EPA. The sampling station agreements, with user to agree to fund the sampling station, location and specs were issued to both parties. Letters sent today with a response deadline of January 19, 2024, and follow up letters will be sent, if no response. Inspection reports will be coming from HRG soon. Citterio needs to follow up with a chemical usage report to the Authority. Criminal or civil penalties are now the question regarding the pretreatment program, if the EPA or DEP assess the penalties to the Authority, Mr. Ferdik will inquire with Special Counsel Attorney Pompo. The blue table on the Engineering Report are the items the EPA still needs to review. Attorney Fagan stated under the ordinance that the different municipalities have made the Authority their agents to act on their behalf so whatever Freeland, Foster or Butler can do, the Authority can do because the Authority was given their power. Attorney Fagan also stated their ordinances have criminal penalties in them so the Authority should be able to enforce them.
- NPDES Permit Renewal Work** – See Engineering Report.
- Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project** – Logan Jury set up a Prebid meeting on January 10, 2024. Submittals were all received and approved.
- ACT 537 Special Study** – No significant activities.
- Update Sewer Rules and Regulations** – Office Manager provided HRG with information for updating the document.

### Water Area

- Oak Street Water Storage Tank** – NPDES permit was resubmitted. Need to acquire the subdivision plans from Freeland Borough and Foster Township. Jason Leonard and Attorney Fagan have been working together for the subdivision plans. Property is zoned conservation which needs an exception and needs to go on Foster Township Zoning Meeting Agenda.
- Hydraulic Model Flushing Analysis** – No update this month.
- Update Water Division Rules & Regulations** – HRG to schedule a date and time for reviewing with the Authority. Technical aspects with the Board and then administrative aspects with the Office Manager.
- CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant and H2O Grants** – CFA approved the Authority for a \$300,000 Centre St Water Main Replacement Project. Design is completed and will be put on PennBid. Spring should be the time frame for construction. Freeland Fire Department wants a service line located to their area of the building, by the alley.
- LSA Statewide Grant** – was used for the Centre St Main Replacement Project but the Authority was awarded this project through the CFA Small Water instead.
- LSA County Specific Grant** – Mini Excavator was submitted to this grant and the Authority decided against the grant. At the November Meeting, The Board decided to try and reinstate the grant with no results.
- Tapping Fee Calculations** - HRG is working on the calculation draft report for January to review. Additional information is needed regarding the public system permit and users of the system.

Sandy Run Corrosion Control Treatment Feasibility Study will be tabled and added to the January Agenda.

Bentley proposal regarding water consumption equipment for submitting to the SRBC will be tabled and added to the January Agenda. Grant Application is due January 30<sup>th</sup>. Time and Materials to draft the paperwork is \$5700 with a not to exceed price.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the Resolution to Borrow \$1,509,000.00 for the Improvement of the Public Sewer System from PENNVEST for the New Dewatering Equipment and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2472-A).

#### WATER DIVISION

Noise Mitigation for Well 4 & Well 6 at the cost of \$3000 to obtain well depths. The Authority obtained the same level equipment, which Meiser & Earl used. The levels will not work if ran through the VFD. Some type of interference is creating this issue. Keystone Engineering is quoting isolator to stop the interference of the noise. Mr. Thomas stated if the VFDs work at all the other wells than something is not installed properly at Well 4 and Well 6. Mr. Fisher stated the Authority should do only one well to see if it corrects the issue first. Ryan Smith said Forschner Wireworx would look at Wells to see what is different. Ryan Smith stated the estimate is written as Well 4 and Well 6 which is incorrect, it should state Well 11 and Well 6.

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve one well only (Well 11) at \$1500 only if Forschner Wireworx does not find what the issue is with the well and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2472-B).

#### MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2472-C).

He presented the 2023 Recap for the Water and Sewer Divisions.

Flow Pace Prominent Pumps will be placed on January Agenda.

Compressor/Vacuum Pumps needed at Sandy Run to prevent freezing will be placed on the January agenda.

A new phone for the Technical Manager with a not to exceed \$1900.00 price - unanimous with the Board.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the Lead & Copper Inventory Completion. Ryan stated it is ongoing.

Mr. Kavitski stated about 20% of the town is complete. Brittany asked for an information sheet for the customers regarding the lead and copper inventory from Horsley Witten Group Inc.

Mr. Kavitski said he installed a dynamic separator at the Conyngham Sewer Authority back in 1997, which removes the solids, pumps them back to the plant, water so diluted with heavy rainfall still chlorinated and discharged to the creek and system is still in place. Why can't Freeland use this system? The Authority must remove sump pumps, roof leaders etc. from the sewer system but this also creates icing situations in the wintertime.

Mr. Kavitski is recommending HRG to talk to DEP about a dynamic separator in the system and it would solve a lot of problems. No class A streams at the Wyoming St PS. DEP may give a permit for a separator.

Mr. Kavitski stated HLI makes a very good separator.

Blasko Tank Inspection quote for \$500.00 Mr. Tierney made motion to approve and Mr. Clymer second.

Vote 5-0. (Reference 2472-D).

Flagger training and Locator Program training for all employees on Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> & April 9<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Jar tester quotes tabled for January Agenda.

#### ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #176712 \$5,696.50, Invoice #176714 \$8,438.58, Invoice #176857 \$994.00, Invoice #176858 \$112.00 and Invoice #176868 \$900.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2472-E).

#### ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Fagan stated the agreement of sale and deposit were sent to Jeddo Highland Coal Company which has not been returned yet. Also, working on the subdivision of the Oak Street Tank property with HRG.

Mr. Balas sent a picture of Well 7 capped. He stated he called DEP, who said the Authority should have done the well abandonment procedures. Mr. Balas told DEP the Authority conveyed the property to him.

Mr. Balas was sent the well abandonment procedure twice which was not followed.

Mr. Kavitski stated this cap is not sufficient for the Authority, he must follow DEP requirements of well abandonment.

Mr. Kavitski directed Attorney Fagan to write Mr. Balas a letter regarding Well 7. Mr. Balas purchased this property and acquired the responsibility to abandon the well properly when purchasing this land according

to the Official Minutes from September and November in 1994. The Authority will hold Mr. Balas responsible if anything happens to any of the wells or water sources.

#### OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Appointing Attorney Greg Malaska as co-solicitor for the Authority, Mr. Tierney made the motion and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

Attorney Fagan may be leaving prior to the end of 2024. He has been here since 1986 and is looking forward to spending more time with family.

2024 Meeting Calendar – Meetings scheduled for every third Wednesday of the month at 6 PM, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2473-A).

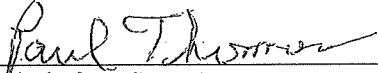
Send Foster Township Supervisors the Sandy Run letter in January and attend their meeting in February of 2024, if no response.

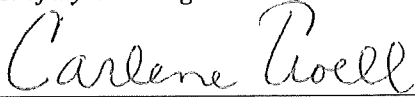
The sewer truck was placed on MuniBid, the reserve price was not met, the highest bid was \$12,100, need to contact MuniBid to contact the bidder since it was below reserve price. If MuniBid does not provide the name of the bidder or the bidder no longer wants to purchase the truck the Authority can readvertise the truck. Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the price if the bidder is interested and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

#### ADJOURN

Mr. Tierney made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

*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