

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

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of silence for all people in need.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens present.

Mr. Kavitski spoke on behalf of Mr. Balas, who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Balas of 14 Foster Avenue stopped prior to the meeting. He asked to have water service connected to the 15 Foster Avenue building, the sewer has been connected. Minimal water usage with truck washing will take place outside of the building. Mr. Kavitski explained to Mr. Balas if truck washing takes place inside building, it could create a high TDS situation at the WWTP, and the Authority would have to contact him concerning this matter. Mr. Balas informed Mr. Kavitski all truck washing will take place outside only and there are no floor drains inside 15 Foster Avenue building. Mr. Kavitski asked the Board if they will approve the water meter at the 15 Foster Avenue building and all agreed for the meter installation.

Mr. Balas brought pictures regarding Well 7 which Mr. Kavitski passed on to the Board Members.

Mr. Kavitski explained the rusty pipe was the original pipe when the well was in operation. There is a hole in the pipe which could be a source of infiltration (Pic #1). Mr. Balas removed the pipe at the fitting, replaced the pipe with the hole and installed a solid pipe with a cap. (Pic #2). Mr. Balas went to DEP with the pictures. DEP is requesting the well logs. DEP insists the Authority should have decommissioned well prior to selling but this is not how the sale took place from years prior. Mr. Balas informed Mr. Kavitski he is inquiring about the PGA building. If he does not purchase that building, he will be looking at building a 150,000 sq ft warehouse on the leveled off ground above the 14 Foster Avenue garage.

Mr. Balas also inquired if there would be a possibility of obtaining water for the house on Graham Street. There currently is a well located at the home and the water is terrible according to Mr. Balas. Ryan Smith will investigate this matter further, there is no water main on Graham Street, would have the possibility to come from Brengle Street. (Reference 2482-A).

APPROVE JANUARY MINUTES

Mr. Fisher would like the Sewer Tapping Fee in the Water Division Area of the minutes to be moved up to the Sewer Division prior to the minutes becoming Official. The Secretary will take care of the correction prior to printing.

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the January minutes and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0.

APPROVE JANUARY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the January paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$234,248.08, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$169,331.65 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2482-B).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$124,850.41, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$86,123.76, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$4,252.71 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2482 -C).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2482-D.

The Secretary asked permission to open an account at First National Bank for the Sandy Run Water Division. Mr. Kavitski made the motion to open the account and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Joshua Fox and Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2483-A).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed via Zoom, EPA issued notice on January 19, 2024, they completed total programmatic review of the Pretreatment Plan. EPA approved all except legal issues with criminal penalties, the hold up on the plan. This may require minor updates to the Rules & Regulations, and ordinances from Freeland Borough & Foster Township. EPA had minor comments on the sampling requirements.

Citterio needs to notify the Authority if they have a discharge or any issue with their pretreatment plant. Another NOV will be issued to Citterio for another discharge which took place on February 9th.

Sampling stations were discussed with both Citterio and PGA. Citterio has been in discussion with the Authority regarding sampling station requirements. Monthly reporting requirements not received from Citterio on time. Phone call from Dave Quinn, he stated reports would be here by the 16th of the month and the Authority still has not received the paperwork. Excel template given to Citterio for their monthly reporting.

No response from PGA currently. There has been no documentation from the company at all.

Balas Distributing, new building has no floor drains, truck washing to be done outside per Mr. Balas. Mr. Balas is to complete a Non-Residential Wastewater Classification Survey which was given to him at time of inspection of his facilities on January 30, 2024. It is recommended to continue to monitor the Balas properties and operations, and to reevaluate if any significant changes or developments occur.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – Two contracts out for bid – construction and electrical contracts. General Construction Contract #24-01 were 7 bids – PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. lowest at \$267,415.00 to the highest at \$577,000 from Pact Two, LLC. Electrical Contract #24-02 were 2 bids – George J Hayden, Inc. lowest at \$109,000 and PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. at \$129,000. PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. was \$67,285.00 below the estimated amount for construction and Hayden was \$3,900.00 below the estimated bid amount for the electrical for the PENNVEST loan.

The second settlement phone call with PENNVEST was last week, working through the settlement checklist now, next meeting March 21st with loan close out scheduled for April 4th.

Mr. Fox is recommending award to PSI Pumping Solutions, Inc. for the General Construction Contract #24-01 for \$267,415.00, Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the contract and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2483-B).

Mr. Fox is recommending award to George J Hayden for the Electrical Contract #24-02 for \$109,000.00, Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the contract and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2483-C). Mr. Fox will issue the Notice of Intent to Award tomorrow to both bidders. Legal Counsel to review the contracts for execution of contracts at March Meeting

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work – No updates currently.

-ACT 537 Special Study – No significant activities.

-Sewer Rules and Regulations – To be presented at meeting today for approval.

-Sewer Tapping Fee Studies – Maximum Residential Tapping Fee \$4,029.00 and Non-Residential Tapping Fee is \$18.89 per gallon per day for the Sewer Division.

Water Area

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – NPDES permit is approved. Final Design continues along with the subdivision plans. Two checks are needed for Foster Township: 1 for \$950 and 1 for \$400 for the Subdivision Plans. Trouble contacting Freeland Borough Zoning Officer, Mr. Leonard of HRG has reached out to the Authority and Freeland Borough staff for help in this matter. Several text messages were sent to the Zoning Officer, but the messages went unanswered. February 7th the PENNVEST application was submitted, comments were made, and they are being corrected now for resubmission. Foster Township and Freeland Borough need to send updated letters regarding this project.

-Hydraulic Model Flushing Analysis – No update this month.

-Water Division Rules & Regulations – HRG addressed all comments from Mr. Kavitski and Ryan Smith, Technical Manager, regarding the updated revision. A draft will be sent to Technical Manager for additional review and sent to the Office Manager to provide comments on the billing and payment processes.

-Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project – After January Meeting, The Authority provided the tap cards to HRG and additional information regarding the project. The original Borton Lawson plan showed sidewalks and no valve replacement, which need to be added. Draft of current plans provided to Mr. Kavitski. HOP needs to be submitted, said Brenden Miller of HRG. Service line for the Fire Department needs to be added and Ryan Smith will review and approve placement.

-SRBC Water Conservation Grant – Application submitted and Matching Funds Letter to be approved.

-Water Tapping Fee Study – HRG sent report to the Authority prior to the meeting. Mr. Fox stated the Maximum Tapping Fee for a Residential Connection would be \$6,556.00 and Non-Residential Connection would be \$42.56/per gallon per day.

The Authority has documentation which is now in the office if it is challenged by any potential customer.

SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Fisher inquired about a vent outside on his sewer lateral. Mr. Fox said outside vents are not required if inside the home there are vents. Mr. Fisher questioned the wording of an intake valve within the new Sewer Rules and Regulations. Mr. Fox said the area which Mr. Fisher is questioning does contain wording for the Authority to be contacted prior to installation to determine if this intake valve would be needed.

Resolution 1 of 2024 to Approve the Sanitary Sewer System Rules & Regulations, Mr. Fisher made the motion to table at this time and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0.

There will be changes to the Sanitary Sewer Rules & Regulations due to the Industrial Pretreatment Plan, so it is best to wait for the approval stated Brenden Miller of HRG.

The Secretary will send the Sanitary Sewer Rules and Regulations via email to the Board Members for review for next month's meeting.

Sewer Tapping Fee Study – Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the new tapping fee study and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2484-A).

The Authority will be creating a binder for all important items to be kept in one area – this will have the Sewer Rules & Regulations, Current Rates, Current Fees, Water Rules & Regulations, Current Rates, Current Fees, Application for New Connections, and Industrial Pretreatment Plan. Customers will also have access to all information on the website.

Sump pump discharge during winter months is creating hazard situations, stated Mr. Kavitski. Freeland Borough may need to install more inlets for stormwater. The solution would be a Dynamic Separator at the Wyoming Street Pumpstation which would solve the problem. This would need to be approved by DEP or DEP should inform the Authority how to handle all the water being pumped out of basements, so it does not flow into the sanitary sewer system.

Mr. Fox is concerned DEP will not allow do to the ACT 537 Special Study Plan. The Task Flow was to do flow monitoring to see if the Authority is a combined sewer or not a combined sewer. If the Authority is considered a combined sewer, it would give more rights to the Authority along with more reporting. It would give the Authority a permit for a Dynamic Separator.

DEP has no solutions which are cost prohibitive, stated Mr. Kavitski. The Authority needs to have a meeting with DEP. The Authority needs to address what will be good for this town and what is going to work, stated Mr. Kavitski. Mr. Fisher inquired about the cost of this equipment and Mr. Kavitski estimates it would cost about \$500,000 to complete.

HRG will schedule a meeting with DEP regarding this situation. Mr. Fox explained to the Board that peak water flow at the sewer plant comes from rainfall events. As groundwater levels decrease the flow at sewer plant decreases too.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the Lead & Copper Service Line Inventory along with looking for sump pumps, floor drains etc. The Technical Manager stated there are a lot of floor drains and sump pumps being found. Mr. Fox stated this is a very common issue with old Boroughs, floor drains got rid of the rain water in basements.

Mr. Thomas suggested having Freeland Borough draft a letter to DEP regarding the icing issues.

WATER DIVISION

Water Tapping Fee Study – Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the new tapping fee study and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2484-B).

SRBC Mitigation Grant Matching Funds Resolution Letter, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2485-A).

Letter of Responsibility along with the Related Addendum for Application for Financial Assistance of \$3,639,000.00 from PENNVEST for the Oak Street Tank Project, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2585-B).

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2485-C).

The F250 issues with wiring, corrosion on wires, which is parked in the Reservoir Building may be contributing to the problem. Pole Building does not have room to add this truck, and the Sewer Plant has no room either. If Zero Turn Mower moved maybe there would be room at the Office Building.

Mr. Thomas said leave the truck outside behind the locked gate.

Annual water reports are completed.

Langelier tests were a little better today. Coupon racks are installed and operating now.

Resistant levels with Well 11 are low & high, In-Situ Level Sensor there. PMC level sensors are at the other wells.

Meter replacements for the customers are going to be tabled for this year.

Old Sewer truck sold on Municibid for \$13,500.00.

Mr. Thomas inquired about the last auction; are there penalties for the gentleman backing out of the deal. Ryan Smith said he would be banned from bidding on Municibid again and he still needed to pay the fees to Municibid but not to the Authority. The next bid was \$100.00 less than the winning bid; Municibid did offer truck to the next higher bidder, but that person did not respond to Municibid. Ryan Smith stated Municibid went down the list and contacted the other bidders with no responses.

Mr. Kavitski asked for the technical report to be shortened.

NE Tech Sales, HACH Flow Meters, quote for calibration and general maintenance of the five flowmeters for \$2000.00, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2485-D).

Biro's Quote for the Wyoming St. PS to be cleaned quarterly at a cost of \$2,085.00 per quarter, this is a shared expense with PA American Water, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2485-E).

Muffin Monster at Wyoming St PS – Derstine quote is to replace the grinder unit with a renew one at a cost of \$28,800.00; Franklin Miller quote is to replace the cutter cartridge only at the cost of \$10,496.00.

Mr. Kavitski suggested to contact PA American Water to inquire how often their pumpstations are cleaned and by whom.

Mr. Fox of HRG said Franklin Miller is the company most municipalities go to for grinders or a XRipper made by Vogelsang Company.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the grinder issues, and it was explained the issue is the non-disposable rags, they bind up and bend things.

Mr. Fox suggested a simplified screen for the Wyoming St PS.

Mr. Kavitski suggested a rope, used the same way as at the WWTP. The staff will try it.

Lutze Driveflex Shield VFD Cable & Lutze Driveflex Non-Shield Cable sold by a spool which is very pricey. The company could not guarantee this would take care of the interference at the wells.

Mr. Kavitski said to go back to the original way with air tubes connected at Well 6 and Well 11.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #177785 \$7,240.00, Invoice #178092 \$896.00, Invoice #178539 \$4,699.20, Invoice #178537 \$12,236.90, Invoice #178538 \$ 11,491.71, Invoice #178785 \$3,600.00, Invoice #178811 \$ 105.00, Invoice #179242 \$2,176.50, and Invoice #178812 \$559.00, and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference -2485-F).

ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Fagan stated two liens were filed this month – 1 for 185 E South Street and 1 for 710 Walnut Street along with several lien satisfactions.

Sent Ironwood Renewable a reply stating if the Authority would need to gain access to property a 24-hour notice would be given to their company. No reply to date.

Attorney Malaska has been working with the Engineers on the PENNVEST Application and the EPA regarding the Pretreatment Program with Special Counsel Attorney Pompo. Attorney Malaska is inquiring with the Engineers regarding PGA's non-compliance with the Pretreatment Program. Mr. Fox said PGA would not receive an Industrial User Permit for next year due to non-compliance.

Mr. Kavitski explained if the building is sold whatever business went into the building, if not an industrial user, the Pretreatment Plan would have no bearing on the new company.

Mr. Fox explained the whole Pretreatment Plan is for any Industrial User that would meet the requirements of possible disruption of the WWTP, and those changes would be on the NPDES Permit.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

PenTeleData quote will be tabled until next month, meeting is scheduled with the company to go over the quote. PenTeleData is trying to take over the entire system here. Garland Communications does the IT services here. Mr. Tierney made the motion to table and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0.

Rave Mobile Safety Callout System – Mr. Tierney made the motion to rescind the 1-year contract, it would be cost effective to renew for a longer timeframe, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to renew the contract with Rave Mobile Safety Callout System to a 5-year renewal at the cost of \$1395.00 per year and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2486-A).

Mr. Fisher inquired if anyone ever approached Freeland Borough to share in the cost of the system. The Secretary stated the Borough contacts her when they need a message sent to residents.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the delinquent list with people having large balances of monies owed to the Authority. The Secretary explained if the account number has an asterisk placed there, it means there is a lien filed on the property.

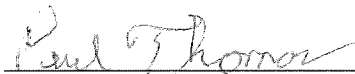
Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to contact Freeland Borough Council regarding a single service line ordinance.

Executive Session for personnel matters after the meeting.

ADJOURN

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

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



Paul Thomas, Secretary



Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary