

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS, MR. TIERNEY II, MR. CLYMER, THE ENGINEER, ATTORNEY FAGAN, ATTORNEY MALASKA, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER AND THE SECRETARY.

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

A moment of silence for all tornado and other weather-related victims.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel regarding Lead Man position. The Board returned from Executive Session and Mr. Kavitski explained the Lead Man now has acquired both licenses. Mr. Kavitski made a motion to put him at the Lead Man with dual license rate and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0.

#### CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

One citizen was present via Zoom but did not participate. Bill Kuklis, 813 Schwabe Street, inquired when the customer service window will be open again. Mr. Kavitski stated it will not be open. If a customer needs something, they can call and make an appointment. The Authority works without it being open. Mr. Kuklis stated people are asking him when the office will be open again. He also inquired if Centre Street Bids will be opened at the meeting. Mr. Kavitski stated no, the project was not advertised yet. Bidding will be out in May and October 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for completion.

#### APPROVE APRIL MINUTES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the April Minutes and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

#### APPROVE APRIL PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the April paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$162,262.40, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$155,276.90 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2497-A).

#### CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney inquired about the Engineering Invoice for Sandy Run and the Secretary explained it is part of the Feasibility Study.

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$77,377.81, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$66,528.83, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$2,258.92, and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2497-B).

#### FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2497-C. The Secretary requested approval for the homeowner of 925 Washington Street to receive a refund of \$77.00 (\$20.00 Water and \$57.00 Sewer) for overpayment of final bill, Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the refund and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

#### ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Joshua Fox and Brenden Miller of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2497-D).

#### Sewer Area

**-SIUA and sampling stations** – Brenden Miller of HRG reviewed Chris Ferdik's information from the past month in the Engineering Report.

EPA comment period of 30 days. Full approval of IPP by June or July predicted by Chris Ferdik. Sampling Station for Citterio Chris Ferdik has been coordinating directly with Citterio. Composite sampler will be installed using the existing manhole with auxiliary equipment with keylock and recording for flowmeter. FMA will have access at any time.

The attorneys with special counsel will be creating a paper trail regarding PGA.

NOV's for Citterio - Chris Ferdik and Ryan Smith are working together on equipment failures allowing grease to go to the Wyoming St PS and WWTP along with administration violations too.

**-Sludge Dewatering Project** – Submittals are coming in; construction will begin in August. Mr. Fisher inquired about the hauling of the liquid sludge. The contractor will be responsible for the hauling costs; sludge will be sent to Greater Hazleton Sewer Authority. Mr. Fox stated the project should take approximately 8 weeks from start to finish. The FMA staff will be trained with the new equipment. Mr. Fox has requested a time line from the contractor on the project. As the dates get closer to the construction FMA will sludge press more waste to make room in the digesters.

**-NPDES Permit Renewal** – No update currently.

**-ACT 537 Special Study** – No significant activities.

**-Sewer Rules and Regulations** – Tabled until to 30-day comment period from EPA will end on June 8<sup>th</sup>; the Authority has not received any comments to date.

**-Dynamic Separator** – No update.

### Water Area

**-AdEdge System** – Covered in the Water Division.

**-Oak Street Water Storage Tank** – Land development submissions were made to Foster Township, Freeland Borough, and Luzerne County. Funding Offer at the PENNVEST April 24<sup>th</sup> meeting in the amount of \$3,639,000, a loan with an interest rate of 1% for the first 5 years and 1.743% for years 6 through 20. There is another Foster Township Zoning Hearing Board Meeting on Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM. Scott Smith of HRG will be attending and Attorney Fagan along with the Board Members for approval. Looking for the project to be out for bid in June, Staci Hartz will be reviewing prior to placing the project on PennBid.

**-Water Rules & Regulations** – HRG to provide hard copies for review to the Board.

**-Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project** – Mr. Fox and Mr. Miller were looking at the site prior to the meeting tonight. Staci Hartz is looking at the final review and will be the signing Engineer for the project. Attorney Malaska will receive the project manual to review. Looking to bid the project in May so it can be completed prior to PennDOT paving season. HRG would like to get the bids executed for the June Meeting. HRG will gather the recommendations prior to the June Meeting.

**-SRBC Water Conservation Grant** – The Authority was awarded \$203,500 for the water leak improvement project. This project was only 1 of 7 projects awarded. Smart meters for larger customers, adding leak detection for the entire system, tying everything into the SCADA System, and building a digital twin of the FMA system using the GIS information. This shows a lot of analysis and testing for model simulations to see results before implementing changes. All software, smart meters, and leak detection equipment were included in the application. Waiting for the grant requirements for how the monies can be spent and the procurement methods. Mr. Tierney inquired about the cost of the software upkeep and Mr. Fox explained HRG is working with Bentley Company on a pricing model. The leak detection equipment will be installed permanently and FMA needs to determine where the equipment will be placed; the biggest fee will be the batteries for the equipment's operation. Mr. Tierney inquired about the training of the software for the staff and to develop a plan for it. Mr. Fox said the training will be extensive, but the software is not used daily and HRG can help with the data.

**-Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study** – Ryan Smith sent comments for HRG to incorporate into the DEP Report and Staci Hartz is reviewing.

### SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the PENNVEST Payment Request #2 in the amount of \$18,425.75, for the Sludge Dewatering Project and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2498-A).

### WATER DIVISION

Mr. Kavitski explained to the Board regarding the Iron and Manganese situation at the Authority. Mr. Kavitski spoke to Mr. Fox and Mr. Miller about a system for the treatment of both items.

Mr. Fox explained the AdEdge equipment for the treatment. It will need to have the ability for automatic backwash to clean filters and must connect to the sanitary sewer. Mr. Fox handed a drawing of the equipment for the Board to look over. (Reference 2499-A).

Mr. Tierney inquired about the effectiveness and Mr. Fox stated the equipment is very good. No additional chemicals needed. Buildings will need to be built at the specific wellhouses. Mr. Fox will obtain updated costs, last checked a small unit was 260 thousand and larger unit was 500 thousand, and the Authority will need two to three of these units. Well 4, 6, and 11 will have one unit. Mr. Fox stated will also investigate units for the PFAS and PFOS, which do have grant monies available. Mr. Fox explained PADEP and EPA have different requirements for the PFAS & PFOS, and the EPA is proposing different figures. EPA is proposing zero readings for these items. Mr. Fisher stated zero, there is no such thing as zero. Mr. Kavitski said all instruments have a plus or minus. The Authority will investigate now due to grant monies being available at this time. Mr. Thomas made a motion to have HRG gather price estimates for the equipment and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

#### MANAGERS REPORT

Mr. Tierney said congratulations and welcome back to Ryan Smith. Ryan Smith presented the Technical Managers Report. (Reference 2499-B). Sandy Run leak was approximately 6 thousand gallons per day, but it has increased. Notice is to be sent to the resident with a two-week period with possible termination of water during certain hours of the day until fixed and the Board were all in agreement. Mr. Kavitski said the Sandy Run Residents may need to have meter pits where the service line connects to the main at the cost of approximately 4 thousand dollars. Generator quotes for annual service were discussed. Load bank testing was completed last year and will not be done this time. Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Mechanical Service Company and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2499-C). Place ad for part-time person to cut grass at all wellhouses, tanks and the office area. Training for the staff, Mr. Kavitski inquired about the confined space training being OSHA compliant and Ryan Smith explained it was. Mr. Thomas said to train everyone in confined space training. Surge protective modules have a 10-year warranty per Forschner Wireworx. Wyoming St PS communications – cellular and dark fiber quotes will be gathered, and PA American Water is aware of the communication problems and will share in the expense. Influent grit system control screen either refurbish or new, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve a refurbished screen for \$1000 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. R&M Blowers, investigate this company for aeration blowers. Mr. Kavitski recommended using the spare blowers than repairing or rebuilding the ones leaking. Digester A cleaning quote from Biros for \$6,920.00 Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2499-D).

#### ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #181641 \$7,557.90, Invoice #181645 \$6,461.77, Invoice #181650 \$1,576.00, and Invoice #181652 \$2,870.00, and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2499-E).

#### ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Malaska stated he will be handling the Centre Street Water project. After last meeting, Attorney Malaska made inquiries regarding PGA to Freeland Borough and PGA's current counsel. Attorney Malaska and Chris Ferdik of HRG will work together to terminate the Industrial Permit for PGA after all regulations are approved by EPA. Attorney Malaska also reviewed regulations from EPA and the Citterio sampling site.

Attorney Fagan stated he has been handling the Oak Street Tank Project. Zoning Hearing will be Thursday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6 PM at Foster Township. If granted subdivision approval, this will allow the Authority to purchase and receive title to the land, then onto the Land Development. The last meeting at the Planning Commission, there is a cul-de-sac created in a subdivision that was completed for the Senape Family when purchasing land from Jeddo Highland Coal Company. On Oak Street there is a cul-de-sac on the drawing and a deed was created and given to the Freeland Borough, but they never recorded the deed. Attorney Fagan said it is an unrecorded and uncompleted deed. Jeddo Highland conveyed it to Freeland Borough it shows on the drawing, but it is still Jeddo Highland's land. The Authority can go through with the basic

acquisition but it will note and show the Authority has moved the Oak Street Tank Project water detention basin up so it will not interfere with the cul-de-sac should the Borough even want to put a cul-de-sac there. The Senape Family did give a copy of the deed to Attorney Fagan. The Authority will put in a gravel road to the tank and an easement will be there for Jeddo Highland if they need. Mr. Fisher inquired if the Upper Lehigh tank will be decommissioned after the Oak Street Tank is built and Mr. Kavitski said yes.

#### OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

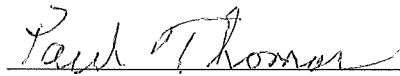
The CCATT, LLC Second Amendment for the land lease was reviewed by the solicitors. Attorney Fagan explained it adjusts the payment terms and extends the life of the lease until 2059, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2500-A).

Freeland Borough Recreation Board sent a donation request, Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve \$100.00 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2500-B).

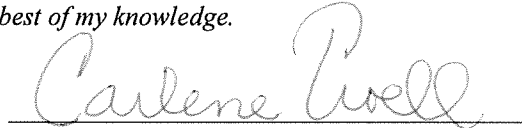
#### ADJOURN

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.*



Paul Thomas, Secretary



Carlene Troell, Non-Member Secretary