

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022, 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, AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

For all the people having difficulties in this trying time.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present.

APPROVE MAY MINUTES

Mr. Fisher made the motion to approve the May minutes and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

APPROVE MAY PAID INVOICES

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve the May paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$93,428.05 and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$137,644.33 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2369-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$70,591.60, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$66,329.04, Salnicky Enterprises Invoice totaling \$2311.50 and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$169.98 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2369-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2369-C.

Mr. Kavitski explained to the Board the DEP inspection of Sandy Run was completed on May 31, 2022. DEP wants to see a fence installed, metered connections to homes, and cleaning of the tank. The approximate cost for these improvements would be \$15,000.00, the Authority needs to look at next year for budgeting. The expenditure normally exceeds what is received in revenue at Sandy Run. The Authority did explain this situation to DEP and asked to complete these tasks in steps.

The Secretary explained the slowdown of the mail system is again creating problems with payments being received on time to vendors especially mail going to the Philadelphia area. The Secretary gave the Board Members a list of vendors for approval to set-up either ACH or Automatic payments. Mr. Thomas approved the list of vendors and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2369-D).

SEWER DIVISION

Attorney Fagan arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Joe Bluge of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2369-E).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Awaiting review of the documents by the Special Counsel, then approval by the Board and submission to EPA. Attorney Fagan will contact the firm of Young & Haros for an approximate date of final review.

-Sewer Rules & Regulations – Chris & Josh are reviewing the changes at this time and will have a draft for July meeting.

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work – Waiting on Draft Permit.

-WWTP Final Clarifier Distribution Box – Linde Corporation & HRG are currently working through the submittal process. After submittal process is complete an updated schedule is expected to be provided by Linde when lead times are identified.

-Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project – Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the Equipment Procurement, Final Design (Electrical & Mechanical) and Bidding – Final Design \$38,500 Lump Sum Fee and Bidding \$6,500 Lump Sum Fee and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0 (Reference 2370-A).

-Headworks Evaluation – HRG is currently discussing with PADEP to determine what improvements, if any, can be performed at the WWTP Headworks without submission of a WQM Part II Permit Application. HRG has prepared a hydraulic profile to demonstrate the proposed improvements can be implemented within the existing hydraulic grade line of the WWTP and is obtaining additional information from equipment manufacturers.

-ACT 537 Special Study – HRG has prepared a grant application for the Sewage Facilities Grant Program administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority.

Water Area

-ARPA Grant – No activity since the pre-application was submitted to Luzerne County.

-LSA Grant – Centre St Water Main Replacement – No activity since submission.

-UL Tank & Water Improvements – HRG prepared a proposal for engineering services for the survey, preliminary design and permitting phase for the 2023 Water System Improvements Project for a cost of \$198,500.00, the Authority is looking for funding for this project. The Board will look at the proposal further and receive an update from Mr. Fox on the funding. This proposal is tabled at this time.

Well 6 & Well 10 Treatment System – A feasibility study for professional engineering services for the iron, manganese and hydrogen sulfide treatment system(s) proposal for time and materials not to exceed \$9600.00 including labor and standard reimbursables. Laboratory testing and analysis are not included in this fee and are expected to be completed by FMA. Mr. Kavitski made the motion for the approval of the proposal and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2370-B).

Northeast Technical Sales, Inc. – Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the purchase for ORP Sensor & Setup and DO Probe & Setup in the amount \$4682.00 with Moyer Instruments to install with a not to exceed cost of \$2500.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2370-C).

Loomis Street Manhole Repair – Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the quote from John Gera General Contracting for \$3975.00 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2370-D).
The Board did request the Technical Manager to reach out to other Authorities to see about manhole repairs.

Freeland Borough Approve Act 537 Update Resolution – Attorney Fagan stated in the letter from PA American Water & Foster Township, the wording is they must comply with their respective legal obligations under the Freeland Municipal Authority's Industrial Pretreatment Program & Freeland Municipal Authority's Sewer Use Program. PAWC and Foster, in conjunction with Freeland Borough and the Freeland Municipal Authority will actively participate in and will support the completion of the Act 537 Plan Special Study as described in the approved Task Activity Report dated February 2014. The Board were all in agreement for Freeland Borough to approve the Act 537 Update Resolution. (Reference 2370-E).

WATER DIVISION

Mike Brannon from Pagnotti Enterprises reached out to the Board and wants to go out to the locations in person. Mr. Brannon would like to see what area the Authority may want to acquire. Possible dates next week.

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2370-F).

The operators were following behind today's DEP inspection of the Freeland System correcting things that DEP brought to the Authority's attention.

Mr. Kavitski stated the employees had a 100-item list they took care of prior to the inspection. DEP did comment FMA has one of the nicest water systems they had ever seen. Mr. Kavitski said employees will have a pizza luncheon on Friday.

Manhole #20, the flow meter will be sent for service – not reading.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority needs to put into place, procedures for extra testing at the WWTP. Trends from the recordkeeping showed the heating oil that entered the sewer system affected the treatment plant. The pH results are improving. The I & I also drops pH levels, which I & I will become a focal point once the new employee is hired.

Citterio also discharged high strength sewage to the WWTP, and they did not notify the Authority.

Attorney Fagan was informed an NOV needs to be issued.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the fuel oil spill that was entering the sewer system. Ryan Smith stated he tried tracing where it was coming from, to no avail.

Mr. Kavitski stated microscopic checks need to be done at the WWTP frequently. If they would have been done on a regular basis the fuel oil spill would have been caught quicker.

Mr. Thomas inquired about a charcoal filter for the future but Mr. Bluge of HRG stated the filter would not have helped in this case – it would have been blocked with slime. Mr. Bluge recommended buoys to collect the fuel oil that floats on top.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority will investigate COD analyzers for the budget next year for the WWTP. The analyzers would throw an alarm and you would catch things right away.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the following HRG invoices: #161049 \$1,264.00, #161050 \$1,447.00, #161051 \$1,989.50 and #161052 \$10,514.50 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2371-A).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Fagan inquired about the purchase of the land at Birkbeck & Johnson Streets was the information provided by the sellers acceptable. Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority wants to be sure if property is purchased the tanks are removed and it will be at the seller's expense. Offer is \$125,000 for the 2 acres.

Mr. Kavitski stated what would happen if three tanks were removed and another one is found in the process. It should not be an expense to the Authority at all.

Mr. Fisher stated this site had testing done years ago and the Authority should be able to look at the results. Attorney Fagan said he is not sure if the Realtor knew tests were done.

Mr. Fisher would like to be sure the ground is not contaminated where the tanks are.

Mr. Kavitski said in the agreement if the tanks are removed and the ground around the area is contaminated it would be the seller's liability. Attorney Fagan stated the tanks would be removed prior to the Authority purchasing the property so it would be the seller's responsibility. This will be a condition of the sale.

FIDC did testing on this ground years ago when Freeland Borough was going to build a borough building there. Mr. Thomas recalls testing being done and results were good. Mr. Thomas thought Freeland Borough should have the records. Mr. Kavitski thought Midlantic Engineering did the testing on upper lot by Birkbeck Street. Attorney Fagan stated a contingency would need to be added to the agreement about any soil contamination.

Foster Township Agreement – Acknowledgement from December 14, 2009, between FMA, Freeland Borough, Foster Township with Butler Township to make the provision for Butler to pay Foster Township. An agreement would need to have all the same parties involved stating the December 14 of 2009, agreement is still valid and living by it.

The Amended and Stated Treatment Agreement modifies the December 1999 – sampling, calibration, flow meters, and inspections are already in this agreement.

Mr. Kavitski stated they are in the agreement, but things need to be completed.

Attorney Fagan stated the agreement now is being breached by not maintaining things. A definite timeframe should be placed into the new agreement for repairs to be completed.

Mr. Kavitski stated 1 year agreement to start, to be sure things will be completed with a possible extension later of a longer date – maybe 3 or 5 years.

Mr. Tierney stated the Authority wants to see how business will be done with PA American first.

Mr. Fisher stated penalties should be put into agreement when things are not completed on time.

Mr. Kavitski stated penalties should be placed into the new agreement. The Board discussed this option. Timeframe for repairs should state 60 days for completion. After 60 days, if things are not corrected, the monetary penalty will be \$100.00 per day until fixed.

Monthly report within the first week of the next month for flow meters at all pump stations. PA American stated they will install a SCADA system for the flow meters.

Mr. Kavitski stated DEP inquired if the Authority had the asset management program and the Authority showed a completed one to DEP.

Attorney Fagan stated post-trial submission must be submitted to the Judge 45 days from the date of June 13, 2022, per Attorney Greg Malaska.

Mr. Thomas inquired about the issue on Ridge Street where the meter was removed, what steps can be taken to resolve the issue. No doubt he is living in the home. Borough code is no water the home cannot be lived in. The photos showed a jumper in between with a ball valve, which would give water to this property.

Mr. Bluge stated with a sewer line, the Authority could have access to inspect the property per the Municipal Authorities Act.

Mr. Kavitski stated send a certified letter stating a meter needs to be installed. Ryan Smith stated pictures show a jumper in place so theft of services should apply.

Mr. Fisher wants an inspection of property first.

Mr. Kavitski stated two employees go to the address, knock at door, and tell resident property inspection must be completed. If the resident gives the employees a tough time, call the office, and they will call the Police. Attorney Fagan stated to keep record of everything done and take pictures.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

825 Walnut Street – Brother removed the water meter because Mr. Correll passed away. When the brother called and said there was no money & wanted billing to stop. Explained if the meter was removed, water & sewer bill would stop along with garbage bill if they filled out exoneration form with Freeland Borough, but stormwater bill would continue. Appointment was made to remove the meter, which FMA did. In the meantime, Ms. Correll turned in a letter up at the Borough, FMA was not informed, stating she was Administratrix of the Estate. She was told FMA would put the meter back into the property once the bill was paid. This property would have been placed on the shut off list this month due to the amount owed.

Mr. Thomas suggested FMA put service line into the 827 Walnut Street home.

Attorney Fagan asked about how many siblings are on the deed. Attorney Fagan stated some of the siblings still have interests in the property at 825 Walnut Street. Mary's estate, Cathy Penkala, and Christopher still have interests in this property according to the deeds.

264 Highland Main Street – Illegal Sewer Connection with 6 to 8 sewer connections for campers/trailers in the backyard and connected to the sewer main. Franzosa did an emergency PA One Call and has disconnected all from the sewer main. No permits or connection notices from Foster Township.

Mr. Kavitski stated an Executive Session will follow adjournment of regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

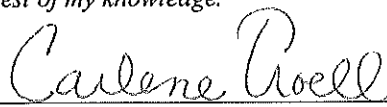
ADJOURN

Mr. Tierney made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Kavitski 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