

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM AT 711 BIRKBECK STREET, FREELAND, PA. PRESENT WERE MR. KAVITSKI, MR. FISHER, MR. THOMAS (via ZOOM), MR. TIERNEY II, MR. CLYMER, THE TECHNICAL MANAGER, THE ENGINEER (via ZOOM), THE ATTORNEY (via ZOOM), AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

Moment of Silence – Due to the weather, keep everyone safe tonight.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens present.

JAY LYNCH OF MEISER & EARL, INC. – ABANDONMENT PLAN & PUMP TEST

A proposal was presented to decommission the three wells, which were constructed by GHD, Test Well 1 2, and 3. Meiser and Earl, Inc. received approval from PA DEP regional hydrogeologist Charles Maroni, via email dated October 24, 2022, for the abandonment plan. The plan will be coordinated with George Leib of Leib Drilling. Leib pricing reflects filling the well bore as described in the PADEP approved Abandonment Plan dated October 11, 2022. The decommissioning will take 3 days for completion. All work to be completed at Level D for PPE. Water will be available on site or nearby to mix the grout. Water from overflow during backfilling and grouting can be discharged to the ground surface. Meiser & Earl will consult, overseas and report; and Leib Drilling will decommission test wells. The cost for the plan is \$26,200, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the proposal and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2396-A).

The memorandum for Well #11 was discussed for SRBC docketing. Well 11 at times withdraws more than 100,000 gallons per day. FMA submitted grandfathering registration applications to the SRBC in 2018. The SRBC returned an email dated March 8, 2022, Wells 9, 12, and 17 were determined to be in the Delaware River Basin. Wells 4, 6 and 10 are in SRBC and are grandfathered because they were in operation prior to 1978. Well 11 will not be grandfathered because it was not put into operation until 1981. Well 11 is required to either operate at less than 99,000 gpd on a 30-day running average or have a groundwater withdraw approval granted by SRBC through their docketing process. Well 11 was granted an operations permit through PADEP in 1981. Well 11 historical water levels do not go over 100,000 gpd. FMA can rehabilitate Well 11 and then go for docket with SRBC, which would be groundwater withdraw application than operational testing with alternative hydrogeology determination. Rehabbing of Well would be approximately \$25,000 to \$30,000 for Meiser & Earl with Leib Drilling additional monies. Leib Drilling did Wells 4 & 12, years ago for a total of \$83,000. Mr. Lynch would estimate approximately \$50,000 for Leib to complete Well 11 rehab. This project would have to be bid and will be more difficult because the Well is inside a building. (Reference 2396-B).

Mr. Kavitski shared a graph with everyone. Static and gallons per minute and rainfall shown on the graph and all Wells are recovering now from drought. Well 9, 10, 11 and Well 17 are recovering. Well 4 & Well 12 has level sensors inside the wells. Well 11 & Well 4 were dropping down during the drought. (Reference 2396-C).

Mr. Lynch is suggesting doing pump test on Well 11 at 140,000 for 24 hours to see what the well does. SRBC sustainability of the Well, impact to other users (wells), and impact to the environment which would be a 72-hour test. SRBC needs a plan with a schedule first, then possible springtime testing. Mr. Lynch stated a minor permit modification with PADEP is needed to do rehabilitation on wells now.

Mr. Kavitski stated FMA will do the 24-hour test prior to the December meeting and a discussion will follow to decide the next step.

Mr. Fisher stated all wells should be up to par at the Authority and it's a lot of money and the Authority at this point has a lot going on. Mr. Lynch explained all wells should be rehabbed regularly, it is expensive and if the wells were not inside buildings, it be easier and less expensive to complete.

Mr. Lynch should be at December meeting to review the 24-hour pump test that will be done in-house, and Mr. Kavitski said a decision of how to proceed will be made at that time.

APPROVE OCTOBER MINUTES

Mr. Tierney stated on the October Minutes on third page a vote should reflect 3-1 and the Secretary stated she will make the change. With the change being made, Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the October Minutes and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE OCTOBER PAID INVOICES

Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the October paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$113,136.35 and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$171,012.48 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2397-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$80,992.24 the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$60,804.90 and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$491.21 and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2397-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2397-C.

Mr. Kavitski made the motion to approve the 2023 Solvency Fee of \$981.91 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2397-D).

Mr. Kavitski went over the 2023 FMA Projects (Reference 2397-E).

-Dark Fiber Project – Lease for either 10 or 20 years -PTD will fix any cable unless it is negligence on the part of the Authority, then the Authority will have to pay for repairs. If accident or weather related, PTD will fix no charge to the Authority.

-Proposed Tank Project on Oak Street – 2.2-to-2.5-million-dollar project.

-Well 6 & Well 10 – Iron Magnesium Removal System.

-Replace Transite Line between Family Dollar and PGA. FMA employees are not comfortable with digging in this area, due to the natural gas lines.

-Centre Street Water Line Replacement from Front Street to Chestnut Street.

-Location of New Well Development in Upper Lehigh.

FMA is hoping for a Grant Application to be approved. Josh Fox explained the LSA Grant has been delayed by at least 2 weeks. H2O and Small Water Grants are still pending. Tank Project on Oak Street will be submitted to PennVest and FMA hopes to see grant monies for the project.

2023 Proposed Water Budget was discussed with a rate increase, then in 2024 and 2025 raise rates slightly both years too. Raising rates with smaller increases instead of one large amount. This is for increased expenses and upcoming projects.

Mr. Kavitski stated the expenses are snowballing and if the Authority does not raise rates, it will create problems. The Tank Project will need a PennVest Application for May 2023, a decision and permits must be completed, construction would take approximately 1 to 1-1/2 years, so start to finish timeframe 2 to 3 years.

Mr. Tierney said incremented increases over a few years and transparency for the increases, I do not like it, but it is necessary.

Mr. Clymer stated he thinks this increase is rather reasonable. If things increase more, will this price increase even cover it; that's the real question.

Mr. Thomas agrees that an increase is necessary, and the Authority needs to be able to pay for what needs to be purchased. Based on the numbers going up, this may increase the delinquencies.

Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority can watch what it purchases but things like chemicals, the Authority has no control over price increases. The Tank Project must be the focus and the Authority needs to get ready for it. These are tight numbers, and a newsletter will be put out explaining why the increases need to be made.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to increase the rates per the proposed middle column of the rate increase sheet and Mr. Kavitski second. Roll Call Vote as follows: Mr. Kavitski-Yes; Mr. Fisher-Yes; Mr. Thomas-Yes; Mr. Tierney-Yes; and Mr. Clymer-Yes. The increase will take effect as of January 1st, which will be the February bill.

Legal Fees for the Sewer Plant has increased the Budget for this year due to the Pretreatment Program and PGA. The chemicals and sampling for the WWTP has also increased, along with improvements being made at the WWTP. The Pretreatment Plan may need minor adjustments after this year so the legal fees will not be so high next year.

2023 Proposed Sewer Budget was discussed with the Proposed Projects.

- Grit Removal System
- New Grinder
- New Press submit to PennVest
- Raz Pumps

2023 Proposed Rate increase of \$4.50, 2024 \$1.50 increase and 2025 \$1.50 increase. Possible purchase of Press Equipment now but no warranty because the equipment would be in storage.

Mr. Thomas said input the press to a PennVest Application. Josh Fox will reach out to PennVest for a pre-planning meeting as soon as possible.

Mr. Tierney made the motion for the approval of the 2023 Sewer Budget with the proposed increases and Mr. Fisher second. Roll Call Vote as follows: Mr. Kavitski-Yes; Mr. Fisher-Yes; Mr. Thomas-Yes; Mr. Tierney-Yes; Mr. Clymer-Yes. (Reference 2398-A).

HVAC for the Office – the equipment has been repaired. The ductwork needs to be cleaned. The Authority will have an employee look at the system in house prior to calling a company.

SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Josh Fox of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2398-B).

Josh Fox showed a New Screw Press Drawing, which tied to an existing valve into Sludge Grinder and the Sludge Conditioning to the Dewatering Press, which would benefit the discharge side.

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Attorney Vince Pompo is working on the SIU agreements and wrapping things up by end of the year.

-Sewer & Water Rules & Regulations – Josh Fox will make the Rules & Regulations along with the Grant Applications his priority for the next 30 days.

Mr. Kavitski asked for a table to be put together for the different grants that the Authority is applying for, and which project ties to each grant.

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work – No update to review.

-WWTP Final Clarifier Distribution Box – Contractor identified the lines are 1'7" lower than the records indicate. Job conference this morning which went well. Review all options with the contractor. Modify the piping & fittings to get to the elevation needed or a riser box, the distribution box needs to have the weir gates at a specific elevation. Recast the box, no delay, the contractor was responsible for fieldwork prior to starting the project and they chose not to. Mr. Fox informed Mr. Fisher the weight of the box will hold the riser in place and double mastic will be placed on clarifier distribution box for waterproofing. Linde Corporation had no bypass plan in place for the construction today as they initially proposed. Linde Corporation is communicating well in the project.

Mr. Kavitski stated this is not a change order and Mr. Fox stated Linde Corporation may try but the only cost for the Authority will be the additional cast per Josh Fox.

-Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project – Nothing new to report.

-Headworks Evaluation – No significant activity over the last month.

-PADEP Chapter 102 – Josh Fox reached out to former Engineer, Samantha Albert and awaiting her return phone call for the information needed.

-ACT 537 Special Study – No significant activities.

Water Area

-Pagnotti Water Storage Tank Project – Preliminary layout and coordination with the tank suppliers has begun. Preliminary design 30% complete and preliminary layout to share with the Authority in January.

-UL Tank & Water Improvement – No update given this month.

-Well 6 & Well 10 Treatment System – Two more water samples needed. Beginning of December will have information on feasibility study for the Authority. If sample results come in too late, then study will be for January. The initial sample of both wells are below manganese and iron levels.

Mr. Kavitski inquired about possible sulfide problem at Well 6. Josh Fox did say sulfide problem is a less expensive treatment and this will be included in the feasibility study.

-ARPA Grant – No update given.

-LSA Grant – No update given.

-SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant – HRG reached out to EchoLogix to receive quotes on permanent installed leak detection equipment for the water system that can be connected to SCADA. Awaiting a response from them, once received, prepare, and submit grant application which is due by January 31st and announced April 2023. The project would be 100% funded by grant monies. This would create a full-time real-time leak detection system.

Small Water & Sewer Grant – Through CFA 85% grant money with 15% match, this grant for the Centre Street Main Replacement Project. Application is already done through the Local Share Account and shows CFA is it an urgent project. If the funds come from LSA first this will not be submitted to CFA.

H2O Grant – Through CFA for larger projects 50% grant with a 50% match and use this grant for the Tank Project. 50% match could be PennVest funds and let PennVest know the Authority has submitted for the H2O grant.

The Board agreed for applications to be submitted to all three grant programs mentioned.

Josh Fox stated HRG will prepare all applications and the resolutions for the next meeting.

Payment Application #2 – Linde Corporation in the amount of \$44,218.17, which the application has been reviewed by HRG for work completed and the general requirements of the contract, Mr. Tierney made the motion for the approval and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2399-A).

Josh Fox stated he had spoken to Linde this afternoon, the crane is coming to help with the box, extension coming Monday and will install on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Iron Horse Environmental-Netzsch Pump Replacement Parts – A rebuild kit for 1 of the 2 pumps at the WWTP, Mr. Fisher made the motion for approval and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2399-B).

WATER DIVISION

Abandonment Plan and Pump Test discussed with Mr. Lynch earlier in the meeting.

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2399-C).

Mr. Kavitski recommended logging hours for the chlorine, ortho and caustic tubes on pumps so they can be changed at time prior to developing a problem. Ryan Smith informed Board they are logging hours to change tubes.

UL Tank mixer will need to be replaced or repaired. Approximate price of \$26,000 for new one. Take tank offline and repair mixer is a possibility. A chain is attached to the mixer so it can be pulled to investigate it further. Solar B, Grind B mixer – Kappe Associates does repairs on this type of mixer and Josh Fox will forward contact information to Ryan Smith.

Check well level on Well #12 – no levels shown from earlier chart. It should be recording static levels. Effluent DO probe is not accurate and using handheld unit. This needs to be resolved right now per Mr. Kavitski. Probe must be calibrated properly, and employees must be taught the correct way. Josh Fox suggested installing a probe against the back of box by weir. Mr. Kavitski suggested getting the effluent tank pumped out and cleaned.

Mr. Kavitski suggests Jesse and James to work together for I & I and Ryan G. to help Ryan Smith.

Ryan Smith recommended Jesse to create spreadsheets for tracking of the I & I.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #164384 \$367.50; Invoice #164389 \$2,787.50; Invoice #164392 \$2,286.00; Invoice #164393 \$5,193.25; Invoice #164394 \$2,818.10; Invoice #164781 \$19,250.00; Invoice #164917 \$5,889.20; Invoice #164918 \$3,080.00; Invoice #164919 \$2,333.00 and Invoice #164920 \$15,144.00 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2400-A).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Fagan stated Attorney Pompo was extremely proficient on the Industrial Pretreatment Plan. They are discussing the plan every Tuesday until completion. Freeland Borough Council will vote on the amended Local Limits on the Ordinance and Butler & Foster Township will need to acknowledge the change in the Local Limits that will occur. Attorney Fagan informed Freeland Borough that the Authority will pay for the cost of advertising the Ordinance.

Dish Wireless has accepted the \$600.00 per month lease payment, which will be a 20-year lease with an increase in five-year increments.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

ESRI software for the yearly renewal for \$2,087.00, which is the software for Brittany, Mr. Clymer made the motion to approve the renewal and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2400-B).

Fiber Optics for dark fiber, speaking with James Sharkey of PenTeleData, 10-year lease \$135,000- or 20-year lease \$216,000, they install and maintain the cable, only time they do not fix, is negligence on the Authority, which the Authority will be responsible for bill, Mr. Kavitski made the motion to approve the 20-year lease at \$905.00 per month and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2400-C). Mr. Thomas inquired a start timeframe and Mr. Kavitski said PenTeleData needs to obtain permission for the use of telephone poles first.

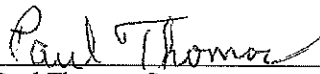
Mr. Fisher explained to the Board, there is a bond with an interest rate of 5% coming out soon, not sure if municipalities would be able to use their monies.

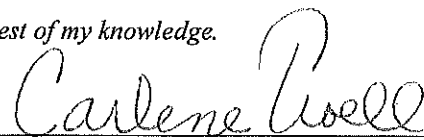
The Authority has decided to renew the same plan for Highmark Blue Cross, health & vision insurance with slight increase of 5% and change dental insurance to Highmark for a savings of \$731.04 for 2023.

ADJOURN

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