

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 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

For all who need help within the country.

MR. JAY LYNCH OF MEISER & EARL, INC.

SRBC issued grandfather certificate for Wells 4, 6, 10 on June 14, 2023. These wells were put into service prior to 1978. Well 11, was put into service in 1981, which will not be grandfathered like the other wells. Well 11 would have to have a docket in place to increase usage on the well. Well 11 must stay under 100,000 gpd unless docket is filed.

Mr. Lynch explained SRBC used the highest 30-day usage to obtain the gallons per day on each well. To obtain SRBC Docket for Well 11 need to prepare and submit PADEP permit modification Module 20, acquire temporary discharge permit, rehab the well, Alternative Hydrogeologic Evaluation (AHE) with operational testing which SRBC needs to approve of the AHE, the AHE Application Fee, SRBC Groundwater Withdrawal Application, and Application Fee. (Reference 2455-A).

Mr. Kavitski explained to Mr. Lynch the information prior to 2018 maybe incorrect and would like SRBC to consider the reports from 2018 to present. The information from 2018 and on, is more accurate and is being recorded into the computer system. Money was spent on rehabbing wells and at this point the Authority cannot use it.

Mr. Lynch said a modification maybe an option. Mr. Lynch said the data given to SRBC was from 2010 to 2018, which a 30-day running average was given.

Mr. Lynch can contact SRBC and schedule an appointment for a sit-down meeting with them and the Authority regarding the historical reports.

The Board would like to see the process to increase the allotted water usage prior to rehabbing wells. If the water cannot be used to capacity, why spend the monies to rehab the well for more water production. The Authority needs good and accurate data for all wells.

Mr. Lynch said the Well 11 had issues with the VFD and well depths in the datalogger. Meiser and Earl used an In-Situ Data Logger. The Authority has used many different depth probes for Well 11.

Mr. Lynch stated the Upper Lehigh Well was put on hold until the issue with Well 11 was resolved. The Authority needs shielded cable for the datalogger which will not be interfered with the VFD running.

Mr. Kavitski recommends putting an In-Situ Datalogger in Well 11. Mr. Lynch was not sure if this datalogger can be used with a SCADA system.

Mr. Kavitski stated a new well may take 5 years before it is up and running. And if there are wetlands up in the area it may create more problems. Mr. Tierney said meeting with SRBC could save the Authority money by not investing in a new well.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

One person attended via Zoom but did not participate in meeting. Mr. Kavitski inquired if they wanted to participate in meeting, no response.

APPROVE AUGUST MINUTES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the August minutes and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE AUGUST PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the August paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$165,919.71, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$175,340.72 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2455-B).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$101,717.61, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$149,286.37, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$279.36 and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2456-A).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2456-B.

Mr. Fisher would like to see the Authority obtain interest rates for Certificate of Deposits for possibility of moving some funds into CD's. The Secretary will gather rates for next meeting.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the 2024 Minimum Municipal Obligation which is zero and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2456-C).

SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Joshua Fox of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2456-D).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Chris Ferdik of HRG discussed the large grease slug from Citterio which interfered with the WWTP via Zoom. This caused issues with the solids settling in the WWTP. Ryan Smith of FMA stated the plant has had to fecal positive results on August 1st and August 8th due to the disruption at the WWTP. HRG, Authority Staff and Citterio personnel met at the Authority Office to discuss the disruption at the plant on August 30, 2023. EPA is reviewing the pre-treatment plan and FMA awaiting approval. Attorney Pompo, Special Counsel for Pre-Treatment, has recommended staying with administrative measures with issues regarding Citterio until full approval of the program from EPA. NOV Template will be used around the Foster Township Rules. Citterio needs to maintain compliance and inform the Authority when things are different at their plant. EPA stated a permit can be issued to Citterio even though the whole Pretreatment Plan is still undergoing a review on September 7, 2023, when speaking with Chris Ferdik. Flow capacity limits should be stated on the permits as well. Sampling stations with access rights for the Authority are also backed by the EPA along with a timeframe for completion. A facility inspection would be best to find the most suitable location for the sampling station.

Mr. Kavitski inquired if a discharge interferes with the WWTP, the Authority needs to document all matters and take administrative levels at this time only. Chris Ferdik said no civil penalty can occur until the approval from the EPA. Josh Fox stated the EPA has seen firsthand what is going on here at the Authority and that is why EPA okayed the issue of permit as soon as possible along with a site inspection. Site inspections are to be completed semi-annually. An Industrial User must provide a response to the site inspections. Administrative NOV's build a case for when the Pretreatment Plan approval is completed. Citterio is supposed to give notice to the Authority with any issues at their plant. The permits will have sludge control provisions and the industrial user should have a spill control plan in place. HRG has drafted a permit, Attorney Pompo reviewing, goes to EPA for approval prior to issue to Industrial user. Notification of problems at the Citterio plant, if their personnel would give the Authority a chance to control the problem at the Wyoming St PS. A suggestion of a TDS monitor at their plant was given during the August 30th meeting. A direct notification will be on the permit.

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work –See Engineering Report.

-Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project – Updated agreement for consideration tonight regarding the construction and additional engineering phases as what DEP required for submitting the permit as Federal Funding and the Authority has received State funding. Reviewed submittals from Schwing, which were revised and sent back to them for items that needed to be addressed. Approved submittals should be here by October which will then be out for public bid for installation of equipment. Schwing sends a representative to be sure the equipment runs properly at startup, which could take up to a week to work out issues, all perfectly normal.

-ACT 537 Special Study – No significant activities.

Water Area

-Oak Street Water Storage Tank – NPDES permit package was submitted to the Luzerne County Conservation District on May 26, 2023. Need the permit in the month of October for submission to PENNVEST for the November 1st deadline.

- **Hydraulic Model Flushing Analysis** – Preliminary results were reviewed by Staci with Ryan Smith and are currently being updated based upon discussion. The Authority will have model prior to October flushing.

-**Update Water Division Rules & Regulations** – Working on the update and adding additional information regarding backflow prevention measures. Final draft to be presented within the next couple of weeks.

-**ARPA & EPA Grant Applications** – Next ARPA quarterly update will be due in October.

-**CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant and H2O Grants** – CFA did not meet yesterday and postponed their meeting until November. They did, however, open the County-Specific and Statewide Grant Programs.

-**LSA Statewide Grant** funding up to 1 million for projects in public interest with no matching funds required. Applications due November 30.

Mr. Kavitski suggested submitting the Centre Street Main Replacement Project for the Statewide Grant, which would not require matching funds. Mr. Tierney made the motion to submit Centre Street Main Replacement Project for \$350,000 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0.

-**LSA County Specific Grant** – funded through gaming revenues generated in counties hosting licensed gaming facilities, several county-specific LSA programs are available and typically offer awards of \$50,000 - \$200,000 and applications due September 30.

-**EPA Drinking Water System Infrastructure Resilience and Sustainability Grant** – The program released only 19 million dollars in funds to award 10-20 projects under National Priority Area 1: Small Scale investments (\$5.7M) and 2-5 projects under National Priority 2: Large Scale. Chances of obtaining this grant would be very small.

-**Map of Oak Street Tank Project Area** – HRG worked on the grading of the access road and realignment of the land purchase from Pagnotti Enterprises. Expect the final layout for next month.

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve the Agreement for Professional Services Sludge Dewatering Upgrade Project Construction & Additional Engineering Phases with \$76,000 for Construction and \$4500 for Additional Engineering and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2457-A).

Clean Up Costs for Industrial Users were tabled until EPA gives the Authority final approval on Pretreatment Plan.

Mr. Clymer left the meeting at this time.

Mr. Kavitski recommended Josh Fox to schedule a meeting with Office Manager regarding the Sewer Rules and Regulations, which need revisions.

Rate Resolution for Sewer Rules and Regulations – Sump Pumps, Roof Leaders, Floor Drains - The Authority is currently inspecting homes and businesses regarding I & I. Some people are refusing to remove the items from the sewer system. DEP is making the Authority address this issue. If people refuse to remove the I & I, maybe the Authority should add a fee to everyone's bill. Repeat offenders would be levied a fine, give a NOV to the owner to correct the problem with a timeframe of 30 to 60 days. After timeframe of 60 days – 1st Offense \$250.00; 2nd Offense \$500.00; 3rd Offense \$1000 and 4th Offense \$2000. These Offenses will continue to double every 30 days until issue is corrected. If fines are not paid, a lien will be placed on the property. Mr. Tierney made the motion for the timeframe of the I & I and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Tierney made the motion for the start of fines for Offenders and Repeat Offenders and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0.

WATER DIVISION

Theft of Services Charge – This charge will be for anyone caught stealing water or anyone tampering with the curb stop, which will include plumbers. All fines will be doubled at this time and added to the owner's bill. 1st Offense \$1000.00; 2nd Offense \$1500.00; 3rd Offense \$2500.00; and 4th Offense \$4500.00 and this charge will continue to double at every offense. Mr. Fisher made the motion and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0.

Denied Access to Home for Lead & Copper Inventory – Rules and Regulations state the Authority can inspect equipment at any time without being denied access. Freeland Borough would not pass a single service line ordinance a few years ago as requested by the Authority. The Board will consider going to Freeland Borough and Foster Township to obtain a single service line ordinance now. Turn water off, if a

single service line address for being denied access and if a double home with one service line, a fine will be levied to the homeowner. Non-compliance fine was the suggestion to cover any offense that does not have a fine associated with it currently. Possibly return to the home with a police officer to remove their water meter for non-compliance. The Authority Staff should place a lock at meter spud.

Mr. Thomas, if the homeowner can be shut off, then do that, post the property giving notice for specific number of days prior to shutting off water. The Board made the decision to turn the water off or remove the meter. Mr. Tierney made the motion and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0.

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the annual renewal of the Wonderware Software from Q-Mation for the SCADA Program at cost of \$5,963.00 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2458-A).

Mr. Fisher inquired about the Lead & Copper Service Line Inventory along with investigating floor drains, sump pumps and roof leaders. He is concerned about investigating people's homes. Ryan Smith, Technical Manager stated notice was given to all customers in the December 2022 newsletter regarding the I & I issue. Josh Fox of HRG said this matter is in the Sewer Rules & Regulations which give the Authority the right to inspect homes.

Quotes for Automatic Flushing Stations were discussed by Ryan Smith. Mr. Tierney inquired about the timeframe of flushing hydrants. Mr. Fisher inquired if the automatic flushing stations needed power. Mr. Kavitski said they do need power and he recommends putting this equipment on hold at this time until the Authority gets the results of the new Hydraulic Flushing Model from HRG. Josh Fox of HRG said he would like to investigate this equipment due to possible permitting from DEP for use along with dechlorination tablets.

ATS Controller Panel for Office Generator - Mr. Kavitski made the motion to approve the Modern Group quote for \$6,499.08 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2458-B).

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2458-C).

pH Permit parameters DEP wants a 7.2 to 7.8 range for all wells. Ryan Smith has contacted DEP to request more time for investigation and then meet with DEP for discussion.

Authority needs running depth totals on Sandy Run Well prior to consideration of pump.

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to apply for the LSA County Grant for a mini excavator and tilt trailer for \$100,000 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. Josh Fox of HRG stated he will start the paperwork with Ryan Smith obtaining quotes with deadline of September 30, 2023.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #174116 \$3,094.50, Invoice #174117 \$1,256.50, Invoice #174118 \$2,970.00, Invoice #174194 \$616.00 and Invoice #174195 \$234.00 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2458-D).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Fagan discussed Birkbeck & Johnson Streets property. Mr. Kavitski stated this will be discussed in the Executive Session following this meeting.

Attorney Fagan spoke to Keith Morel of Ironwood Energy regarding the Authority comments and Mr. Morel requested Attorney Fagan to resend all comments to him for further review.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the Garland Communication Systems quote for upgrades of server and all components for a total of \$24,354.00 and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2458-E).

Donation requests from the Freeland Crimewatch and the Freeland Borough Recreation Board Mr. Tierney made the motion to donate \$100.00 to each entity and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Ref. 2458-F).

Vacation Policy – Additional Wording Regarding Unpaid Time - The Board has decided that all allotted time must be used first then unpaid time can be taken. It will be a case-by-case determination for approval by the Board. The wording will be added to the Employee Handbook. Mr. Fisher made the motion for approval and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 4-0. (Reference 2459-A).

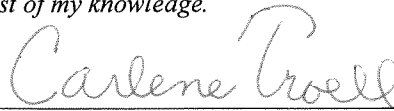
ADJOURN

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