

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022, 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

A moment of silence given for all people in wars.

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

No citizens were present.

APPROVE APRIL MINUTES

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

APPROVE APRIL PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the April paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$205,210.99 and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$121,429.94 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2365-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$59,647.93, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$55,577.88, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$245.08 and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2365-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2365-C.

Mr. Tierney inquired about the budget status with everything increasing and Mr. Kavitski did state budgets are not far behind at this time. Mr. Kavitski stated the budgets will need to be investigated in September to see if a rate increase will be needed for 2023.

SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Josh Fox of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2365-D).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Full set of Pretreatment Program deliverables required for submission to EPA Region 3. HRG continues to work with the Authority to address additional requests and considerations.

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

-NPDES Permit Renewal Work – FMA is awaiting PADEP's issuance of the Draft Renewed NPDES Permit. HRG suggests a meeting be coordinated between FMA, PADEP, and HRG to discuss WQBELS for Free Cyanide.

-WWTP Final Clarifier Distribution Box – Pre-construction meeting held on May 6, 2022, with HRG, FMA and Linde Corporation. Contract times are as follows: Substantial Completion November 6, 2022, and Final Completion December 2, 2022. Linde Construction did discuss the issue of locating larger diameter ductile iron pipe & fittings and after meeting presented options of a different type of lining which would significantly reduce the lead times of the pipe & fittings. Linde Corp & HRG are currently working through the submittal process and the updated schedule is expected to be provided by Linde when lead times are identified.

-Sludge Dewatering Pilot Assistance – HRG prepared and submitted the WQM Part II Permit Package for the proposed upgrade. PADEP will provide notice when the review of the documents is complete, which

may take up to 6 months. HRG is proceeding with finalizing design. This includes coordinating with the equipment manufacturers to finalize equipment procurement agreements to be executed by the Authority.

- 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.
- ACT 537 Special Study** – HRG has prepared a grant application for the Sewage Facilities Grant Program administered by the Commonwealth Financing Authority. This grant would be a 50% match.

Water Area

- ARPA Grant** – Pre-application has been completed and submitted to Luzerne County for the fiber optics.
- LSA Grant** – Centre St Water Main Replacement – Grant should be awarded in the Fall of this year.
- UL Tank & Water Improvements** – Planning Consultation Meeting was held May 1, 2022, with regional PENNVEST Project Specialist, DEP Representatives, HRG and Authority members. Details of projects, including current cost estimates were reviewed. HRG and Authority are currently targeting an application submission date of May 2023, however this may be altered as anticipated increases to PENNVEST funding become available. PENNVEST Regional Specialist recommend a second meeting closer to the targeted application date to discuss any regulatory changes resulting in Federal funding with the PENNVEST program. HRG will continue to monitor the status of Federal funding and recommend the Authority consider moving forward with preliminary design and permitting. HRG will watch the Project timing to take advantage of the increased funding opportunities. HRG will have a proposal for next month's meeting to start the design process. Minor permit amendment, environmental study, and survey work needs to be completed prior to going for bids.

Mr. Fisher inquired about bid risks due to what is going on in the world today. Mr. Kavitski stated if bids are too high you do not accept them.

Mr. Kavitski wants to do analysis on Well 6 & 10 and the Authority should consider PENNVEST funding for a green sand filter system on Well 6 and possibly Well 10 too.

If the Authority receives approval for the New Tank, then dismantle the Upper Lehigh Tank, which the lines would need to be improved at that time. Mr. Kavitski stated the Authority is looking at DEP approved patch material for the Upper Lehigh tank. Discussion of the cost for improved piping in Upper Lehigh, HRG suggestion is to consider doing this in sections at a time.

Mr. Kavitski informed the Board, PA DEP will be at the Authority for the Sandy Run Water System inspection on May 31, 2022, and the entire Freeland Water System is scheduled for June 21, 2022.

Mr. Clymer made the motion for a proposal from HRG of New Tank and the feasibility for Green Sand Filter System for Well 6 & 10 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0.

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the CFA Grant Application-Resolution 3 of 2022 in the amount of \$76,708.00 for the Special Study and Mr. Kavitski second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2366-A).

Foster Township Agreement – Pa American Water requests a 10-year extension on the current agreement, which would expire in 2024. Attorney Fagan knows the Authority is not comfortable for that long of an extension. The Authority would like to request for a shorter time, with a 1-year probationary period after the 2024 agreement ends. If conditions are met, the Authority may consider extending agreement.

Mr. Kavitski would also like to see a draft letter requesting access to flow meters, ability for Authority to read the flow meters with keys to buildings and the need to calibrate the meters yearly.

Mr. Kavitski inquired how is PA American Water moving forward with the sale when things are not completed – ACT 537 Plan Update and the Special Study. Is PA American going to start running the system? Attorney Fagan stated he will inquire about these items.

Mr. Thomas asked would Foster Township still have a Representative after PA American Water purchases the Foster Township West End Sewer System. Attorney Fagan stated Foster said they will not have an appointed person after sale. Mr. Tierney stated the appointment should be placed into the agreement, so the option is there, if Foster Township would want it.

WATER DIVISION

Attorney Fagan said Mr. Brannon of Pagnotti Enterprises was to discuss with Pagnotti Legal Team for land at new tank proposal site, and the buffer zone in Upper Lehigh should be no problem at all.

Attorney Fagan said an easement should be considered for the buffer zone area. Mr. Kavitski stated he would like to walk the boundary line out in Upper Lehigh. Mr. Thomas & Attorney Fagan would also like to be present when this is done. Mr. Kavitski would like to wait until the Fall. Mr. Jay Lynch of Meiser & Earl, Inc. has concerns with the pin placement on one of his drawings. Mr. Kavitski would like to see Brittany Caskey GPS the southern line of Upper Lehigh Area.

MANAGERS REPORT

Ryan Smith presented the Technical Manager Report. (Reference 2367-A). Mr. Smith wants to perform manganese tests in-house with two sample results and Mr. Kavitski recommends running test three times for accuracy. Mr. Kavitski said the water employees have a punch list to complete prior to the PADEP inspections. Mr. Smith spoke to Jay Lynch of Meiser & Earl, who said Well 10 can only pump 85 gpm due to the pump inside the well. The Authority would need to install a larger pump to obtain more capacity. Mr. Kavitski informed Board Members about filamentous algae issues at the WWTP which is from grease & fats. Need to investigate a back-up mini-split system at the WWTP in the future. Mr. Kavitski stated feed 2-5 parts solution of chlorine to control algae.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the following HRG invoices: #160305 \$691.63, #160306 \$17,781.00 and #160307 \$822.50 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2367-B).

ATTORNEY REPORT

Attorney Fagan said PGA trial completed today, which went extremely well. In 45 days, a small trial brief must be sent, and a decision should be rendered by end of Summer. Foster Township agreement and letter to Mr. Balas (well property) will be completed for next month.

OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve the Civil 3D software renewal from DLT Solutions (Synergis) and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2367-C).

Voice over IP Phone System – Mr. Kavitski suggested to have a trial run with the system from Nextiva, Mr. Thomas made the motion for the trial run and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

GPS Receiver – Josh Fox will send the model number of a handheld GPS receiver to Brittany Caskey.

Potential Hire Sewer Operator – Mr. Thomas made the motion to hire John Braddock pending background, driver license history, and physical/drug test results and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. All requested days off, which Mr. Braddock already has scheduled, will be without pay. Mr. Braddock will be hired at hourly rate of 1-Licensed Operator.

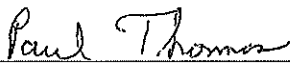
Land at Johnson & Birkbeck Streets – Mr. Tierney made the motion to offer \$100,000 pending inspection of the environmental reports & the in-ground tank reports and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. Attorney Fagan will write up the offer.

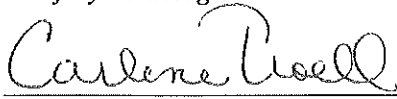
Mr. Kavitski stated an Executive Session will follow adjournment of regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

ADJOURN

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