

THE REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING WAS HELD BY THE VIRTUAL MEETING ZOOM PLATFORM AND IN PERSON ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 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 ENGINEERS, ATTORNEY FAGAN, ATTORNEY MALASKA, AND THE SECRETARY.

SALUTE TO THE FLAG AND MOMENT OF SILENCE

CITIZENS PARTICIPATION

One citizen was present via Zoom but did not participate.

APPROVE MARCH MINUTES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve the March Minutes and Mr. Clymer second. Vote 5-0.

APPROVE MARCH PAID INVOICES

Mr. Thomas made a motion to approve the March paid invoices for the Water Division totaling \$164,631.45, and the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$237,620.93 and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2493-A).

CURRENT INVOICES

Mr. Kavitski made a motion to approve payment of the current Water Division invoices totaling \$76,400.80, the Sewer Division invoices totaling \$75,356.12, and the Sandy Run invoices totaling \$444.06 and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2493-B).

FINANCIAL STATUS

The Secretary reviewed the Financial Status as outlined in Reference 2493-C.

ENGINEERING REPORT

Mr. Brenden Miller and Chris Ferdik of HRG, Inc. presented the Engineering Report. (Reference 2493-D).

Sewer Area

-SIUA and sampling stations – Chris Ferdik of HRG, Inc. discussed via Zoom, March 19th the formal authority legal resubmission to EPA no response yet. This is the last component for the Industrial Pretreatment Plan. Once approved will need updated amendments to Freeland Borough and Foster Township Sewer Use Ordinances, Freeland Municipal Authority Sewer Rules and Regulations and the Authority revised Pretreatment Rules and Regulations. Follow up on Citterio and PGA in late February. Citterio has had questions, and the Authority has been responding to the items. Reviewing composite sampler and flowmeter with web data broadcasting from Citterio information. Also, given a reminder on assurance the Authority will have access to the sampling station and a time line for the completion. Possibility to schedule meeting to review all items with Citterio. A reminder sent to Citterio regarding official responses needed for NOV's and monthly reports. Citterio has not responded to the leak on service line when informed by Ryan Smith. Cost of recovery invoices will be issued: man-hours, sampling costs and materials used, once the entire Pretreatment Plan is approved. PGA has not met any deadline for NOV's or sampling station. Mr. Anthony sent an email indicating PGA has ceased all operations at this point and time on March 30, 2024. Attorney Malaska will conduct legal checks regarding PGA. HRG has notified EPA regarding this issue and their recommendation is to watch the building and check to see if another business takes over. EPA stated to terminate/revoke the Industrial Wastewater Permit, when official word is received, the business is closed. First official annual IPP Report will be submitted by March 31, 2025, to EPA, assuming the approval of the IPP is completed shortly. The first quarter samples were completed by FMA. Dental regulations for the EPA requirements will need to be completed. The dentists located here in Freeland will need to complete paperwork.

-Sludge Dewatering Project – PENNVEST settlement was April 4th and payment request reimbursement #1 electronically sent to the Authority for approval. The Notice to Proceed was issued. Preconstruction

meeting for the project is scheduled for April 22nd at 11:30 AM. Contractors have been providing submittals for review and Luke Swails will be the CA on the project for HRG, which has a lot of experience with sewer treatment plant work.

- NPDES Permit Renewal – No update currently.
- ACT 537 Special Study – No significant activities.
- Sewer Rules and Regulations – Tabled.
- Sewer Tapping Fee Studies – HRG has completed.
- Dynamic Separator – No update.

Water Area

- AdEdge System – No update.
- Oak Street Water Storage Tank – Plan Development submissions were made to Foster Township, Freeland Borough, and Luzerne County. PENNVEST application submitted in February; they will review the project at the April 24th meeting. Scott Smith of HRG, Attorney Fagan and the Authority attended the Foster Township Planning meeting; a few exceptions need to be made.
- Hydraulic Model Flushing Analysis – No update this month.
- Water Division Rules & Regulations – HRG reviewed with Office Manager and changes are being completed. Once reviewed again by Technical Manager, a final draft of the rules and regulations will be given to the Board for their approval.
- Centre Street Water Main Replacement Project – HRG is working on preparing plans for bidding. HOP needs to be submitted. Locations of line stops and valves are being completed. A video of the sewer main needs to be sent to HRG for review. The CFA Small Water & Sewer Grant and H2O Grant Programs the Authority received grant funding for this project. HRG is compiling all the requirements for this grant program currently.
- SRBC Water Conservation Grant – Good news which the SRBC will be announcing grant awards at the end of April.
- Water Tapping Fee Study – HRG has completed.
- Sandy Run Corrosion Control Study – Tap samples were completed by FMA and results were sent to Shannon Chemical for review. Shannon Chemical provided a recommendation of dosing as well as a water model. HRG will prepare a memo and compile all information which is due to DEP by May.
- ARPA Grant Administration – The quarterly update submitted on April 8th.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the sewer line condition at Centre Street, where the water main will be replaced. Brenden Miller of HRG said test pits and the One Call was completed. Sewer line camera used to investigate, Ryan Smith informed Brenden Miller the lines are in good condition. Mr. Smith would like to see a certain area replaced during the water main completion. HRG could place the bid advertisement, with sewer, as an alternative with the bidding for the water main replacement. Mr. Kavitski would like to see the bid completed this way. The video of the sewer main will be sent to HRG for review. Ryan Smith informed HRG the sewer line “t’s” with Walnut Street. Mr. Kavitski would like to see a manhole placed by Walnut Street area and now would be the time to proceed with the road being dug up. HRG wants to be sure of the diameters to confirm size.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the Fire Department water service line placement. FMA knows where Fire Department wants the line placed and HRG needs to confirm the sizing.

Mr. Fisher inquired about the water main sizes. Test pits were to be completed. Tap cards given to HRG.

Mr. Fisher asked if people would lose water service for days; Brenden Miller of HRG said possible for a few hours but certainly not days.

SEWER DIVISION

Mr. Thomas made the motion to approve the PENNVEST Payment Request #1 in the amount of \$588,516.07, for the Sludge Dewatering Project and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2494-A).

Resolution 1 of 2024 to approve the Sewer Rules and Regulations tabled this month due to awaiting approval from EPA regarding the Pretreatment Plan. Attorney Malaska recommended not approving the Resolution until the EPA approves the entire Industrial Pretreatment Plan. Mr. Kavitski made the motion to table until FMA receives the EPA approval and Mr. Tierney second. Vote 5-0. Brenden Miller of HRG will also check the 9.2 section for formatting issue which Mr. Tierney mentioned. Iron Horse Environmental Quote-Netzsch Sludge Pump at the cost of \$14,850.00, which includes the freight charge, Mr. Tierney made the motion for approval and Mr. Fisher second. Vote 5-0. (Ref. 2494-B).

Mr. Kavitski mentioned the Authority needs to investigate the screening of the wastewater plant after the Sludge Dewatering Project is completed. The grit and debris wear the pumps, which can only be rebuilt so often before needing to purchase new ones.

WATER DIVISION AND MANAGERS REPORT

No items for this month.

ENGINEERING INVOICES

Mr. Tierney made the motion to approve HRG Invoice #180800 \$10,331.00, Invoice #180801 \$4,162.26, Invoice #180803 \$8,022.73, Invoice #181034 \$3,107.00, and Invoice #181035 \$226.00, and Mr. Thomas second. Vote 5-0. (Reference 2495-A).

ATTORNEYS REPORT

Attorney Malaska stated PENNVEST Loan was closed on April 4th. Crown Castle lease agreement was reviewed. Paper trail should be created while investigating PGA – business open or closed. The entity is not dissolved but that is not uncommon for a small business. Send a letter regarding Mr. Paul Anthony's email to the Authority as to the status of the business and write to Freeland Borough to confirm either way. NOV's go unanswered from PGA so write a letter and give a time limit for an answer for possibility of revoking Industrial User Permit. The Authority should create a full paper trail. All the Board Members agreed with Attorney Malaska's recommendation for the paper trail. Freeland Borough has the building boarded up.

Attorney Fagan thought there is a mortgage on the property; he will check to confirm.

Attorney Fagan stated he received a Right-To-Know Request from Michael Senape regarding the Oak Street Property and Water Tank. The request was very formal; but he only had two questions which were height of the tank and if any well will be placed on the property. Attorney Fagan will send the plans of the area for the tank to Mr. Senape and let him know there will be no water drawn from this area. Brenden Miller of HRG said the tank will be 140 feet high.

Mr. Kavitski stated test wells were completed in that area years ago, but the Authority has abandoned the idea of a well there.

Attorney Fagan stated he received a phone call from landlord, Mr. Figas. He wants to request water shut off for tenants who are delinquent. The Office Manager explained the bills are in Mr. Figas's name and Mr. Figas called the Authority and requested the Authority to turn water off at the home. The Office Manager explained to him, the Authority does not turn water off at the request of a landlord. Mr. Figas was informed if he wants the tenants to vacate the premises, he needs to go the legal route for eviction. The bills are in his name and are sent to him, he can see if the tenants are paying the bill or not. Mr. Figas stated the Authority does not do things right at this Authority several times and the Authority needs to do things the way Weatherly Borough does. The Board were all in agreement with the way the Authority is handling things and Attorney Fagan will send him a letter regarding this issue. Attorney Fagan stated the landlord is responsible for the bill because the Authority would place a lien on the property if the bill were not paid. If the landlord chooses to give the bill to the tenant to pay that's his decision.

The Authority will email bills to tenants, but the landlord must give approval first.


OPEN/OTHER ACTIONS

Rainfall for the month was 7.39". Mr. Thomas inquired about the summer prediction from Mr. Kavitski, who stated he thinks it will be very dry this summer.

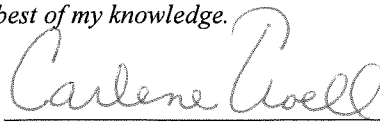
ADJOURN

Mr. Clymer 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