

MINUTES

SUSQUEHANNA TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING

April 2, 2019

Chairman, Anthony Salomone called to order the Regular Meeting of the Susquehanna Township Authority on Tuesday, April 2, 2019 at 7:07 PM at the Municipal Building, 1900 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110.

AUTHORITY MEMBERS PRESENT

Anthony Salomone
Frank Lynch
Sean Sanderson
Yves Pollart
Steve Napper
Thomas Ward

AUTHORITY PERSONNEL PRESENT

David Kratzer, Township Manager
Jill Lovett, Director of Finance
Stan Laskowski, Caldwell & Kearns
Joel Kostelac, GHD
Josiah Bair, GHD
Mark Zhou, GHD

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Garry Ruper, 3608 Beaucrest Street
Mike Rode, 3607 Beaucrest Street
Jerome & Arwen Sniatecki, 3610 Beaucrest St.
Joseph Peters, 3601 Beaucrest Street

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meetings
Of March 5, 2019

Motion by Mr. Ward, Second by Mr. Napper to approve the minutes of the Regular Meetings of March 5, 2019. The Motion was approved unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Gary Ruper, 3608 Beaucrest Street –

Mr. Ruper asked the Board if there was any other funding options explored or available to further reduce the tapping fee for the Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Salomone clarified all options were explored and that the Authority is not aware of any other options available. Mr. Ruper

questioned the Board on the payment process relative to the tapping fee due to the Authority and noted that he had received a letter about the fee that stated it could be \$1,000 more than the previously stated maximum tapping fee of \$3,000. The Authority reaffirmed that the maximum tapping fee would be \$3,000; however, noted that there are other private property owner costs (i.e., connection of the private building sewer to the service lateral and abandonment of the existing on-lot sewage disposal system). Mr. Ruper expressed his understanding that the payment of the tapping fee would be incrementally collected as a component of the quarterly sewer bill. It was indicated that no decision has been made on that matter. Mr. Kratzer mentioned that while the Authority has allowed tapping fee installment payments in past such was in circumstances where the tapping fee amounts were considerably higher than the agreed to maximum tapping fee amount of \$3,000. It was also noted that such installment payments were never interest free arrangements. Mr. Ruper inquired as to the party that directed the Board to perform this project. Mr. Salomone responded the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the project is outlined in the Township's approved Act 537 Plan.

Mike Rode, 3607 Beaucrest Street –

Mr. Rode expressed concern as to his neighbors' ability to pay for the costs of the project and inquired what would happen if a resident cannot afford such costs. Mr. Salomone responded it would be handled like any other residential or commercial customer for non-payment of their account.

Jerome & Arwen Sniatecki, 3610 Beaucrest Street –

Mrs. Sniatecki stated that when the Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project is complete and the residents become rate payers, she anticipates that they will in turn be responsible for subsidizing future sanitary sewer projects. Mr. Salomone remarked that historically system extensions have been financed through the use of special purpose tapping fees or constructed by developers and that the Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project is unique in this regard. Ms. Sniatecki said she did not receive the letter Mr. Ruper mentioned. Neither the Board nor Staff is aware of the letter that Mr. Ruper is referring to. She also mentioned she wanted to know how to receive updates on the project. Mr. Sniatecki stated that they had received no direct written communication from the Authority regarding this project since they purchased the property in 2015. Mr. Kostelac mentioned this resident is in a unique situation as they purchased their house after the surveyor/in-home visits. Mr. Kostelac has provided all written materials to them prior. Mr. Sniatecki asked for a time frame for connection. Mr. Salomone asked Mr. Kostelac to speculate on timing for residents to connect. Mr. Kostelac estimated 18 to 24 months from now. Mr. Sniatecki asked how he finds updates for this project. Mr. Kostelac said once a firm timeline is established, there will be at least one special purpose community outreach meeting. Ms. Sniatecki requested the meeting minutes be posted on the website. Mr. Kratzer responded that minutes will be posted. Mr. Kostelac advised there will be communication coming out soon as there will be project related activity. Mr. Pollart recommended the scheduling of a community outreach meeting in the near future to provide affected property owners with the current estimated timeline and reaffirm the previously

approved maximum tapping fee of \$3,000, and to clarify any miscommunication within the community. Mr. Napper also suggested the potential of a one-page newsletter for the residents.

Joseph Peters, 3601 Beaucrest Street –

Mr. Peters noted that the Township's website reflects that the Authority's current tapping fee is \$560. Mr. Kratzer provided clarification and noted that the Township's website reflects that \$560 is the Authority's tapping fee in areas not located within a special purpose district and the tapping fee resolution/report on the website clearly notes tapping fees within special purpose districts significantly greater than this base tapping fee. Mr. Peters stated having an outreach meeting for Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project is a great idea. He said he did not have success in speaking to Sue Helm and John DiSanto about this project. Mr. Peters asked for a list of township approved plumbers. Mr. Kratzer commented while the Township has a list of licensed plumbers, the Township does not recommend plumbers; however, any plumber may apply for a license issued by the Township. Mr. Peters asked if the Board meetings are recorded. Mr. Kratzer answered that meetings are recorded for purposes of production of the minutes but once minutes are approved, the tapes are reused for future meetings. Mr. Sanderson interjected to say the Board's responses to the Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project have been consistent. The interpretation of the responses may be the issue, what may have been lost in translation is the context of the question. Mr. Sanderson reiterated once information is known it will be made available to the residents of the Project. Mr. Peters requested contact information for a representative for

this project at the Department of Environmental Protection. Mr. Kostelac stated he will give Mr. Peters that information. Mr. Salomone asked Mr. Kostelac and Mr. Kratzer if they felt that it would be appropriate to schedule the previously planned community outreach meeting in the near future. Both indicated yes. Mr. Kostelac stated that communication will be going out about survey work within the next few weeks and in that communication meeting date could be included. It was noted that such a meeting would likely be scheduled for the middle or end of May or early June time frame. Mr. Sanderson suggested to the audience to talk to their neighbors and relay the potential special purpose tapping fee for this project could be in excess of \$30,000 plus private property owner cost but is now \$3,000 plus private property owner cost. The estimated timeframe for the construction to begin in the community is 18-24 months.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Motion by Mr. Ward, Second by Mr. Sanderson to approve the Treasurer's Report for the month of March 2019. The Report was approved unanimously.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning & Construction

Mr. Kostelac reported there was a committee meeting prior to this meeting. The discussion was on the draft Consent Order and Decree and the projects that would need to be completed in the Paxton Creek and Asylum Run Basin to ensure compliance. Mr. Kostelac also reported on status of ongoing projects as well as needed pump station upgrades. Mr. Salomone requested more detailed figures than what was provided in the meeting by next month. Mr. Kostelac stated he will attempt to do so.

Budget & Finance

No Report

Personnel & Insurance

No Report

Pension

No Report

Rates & Regulations

No Report

Liaison to Board of Commissioners

No Report

Liaison to Planning Commission

No Report

REPORTS OF AUTHORITY STAFF

Manager

Written report submitted for the month of March 2019. Ms. Lovett reported the request to see the total amount past due (over 30 days) on all accounts has been included in the report. Mr. Lynch requested to see the percentage comparison to prior periods of time to see the progress of the collection process.

Solicitor

Mr. Laskowski updated the Board on the proposed conveyance of 1.29 acres by Manada Conservancy to the Authority. He engaged the Manada Conservancy in discussions and there were questions on the planned improvement for Paxton Church Road. The Manada Conservancy asked about the location of the right-of-way. Surveys of the property will be requested from Manada Conservancy. Mr. Laskowski asked if there were additional information on the road project that can be shared with them. Mr. Kratzer does not have any additional information and both Mr. Laskowski and Mr. Kratzer will contact HRG for more information.

Mr. Napper asked about the stream that runs along Paxton Church Road. It appeared wider and Mr. Kratzer confirmed there is significant erosion occurring and that such needs to be addressed.

Engineer

Written report submitted for the month of March 2019; copy attached.

Southeast Sanitary Sewer Extension Project – Mr. Kostelac recommended for payment a proposal from KAH for work associated with property line determination and plats and legal descriptions in the amount of \$39,800.00 (includes field work and plat preparation). Mr. Pollart motioned to accept this proposal from KAH in the amount of \$38,900.00; Mr. Sanderson seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Paxton Creek Drainage Basin, Mini Basin 32D/E - Mr. Kostelac recommended approval of AFP No. 2 from Doli in the amount of \$708,481.43. Mr. Ward motioned to approve the payment AFP No. 2; Mr. Pollart seconded. It was approved unanimously. Mr. Kostelac advised Doli submitted an 87-day extension of time request due to weather. Mr. Kostelac recommended it for approval. Mr. Sanderson motioned to accept the 87 day contract extension; Mr. Pollart seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Penbrook Interceptor – Mr. Kostelac stated he received notification from the Penbrook Engineer and Penbrook Manager with regard to the need to add timber mats and stone for the construction of the access road. It is a 50% share with Penbrook. Mr. Kostelac is recommending the payment of \$41,110.50 for Change Order No. 1, which is 50% of the total change order amount. Mr. Pollart motioned to approve the payment of 50% of Change Order No. 1; Mr. Napper seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Doehne Road Interceptor – Mr. Kostelac reported that a proposal has been received from LandStudies for work in the amount of \$15,730.00 and would recommend this proposal. He stated he is unsure if Rogele has any additional costs involved with this. Mr. Sanderson motioned to proceed to accept the proposal in the amount of \$15,730.00 and if the amount changes, it will be brought back to the Board. Mr. Lynch seconded and it was approved unanimously.

Mr. Pollart verified that the correspondence that will be sent out for the Southeast Sanitary Sewer

Extension Project will be sent to all the residents. Mr. Kostelac confirmed that it will be.

Public Works Director

Written report submitted for the month of March 2019; copy attached.

CORRESPONDENCE

None


NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sanderson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36p.m. Mr. Ward seconded the motion. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Signed: _____


Yves Pollart, Secretary