

**PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**  
**PERRY COUNTY**  
102 Municipal Building Road  
Duncannon, PA 17020

October 4, 2017

The Penn Township Municipal Authority (Authority) met on Wednesday, October 4, 2017 in the Penn Township Municipal Building. Chairman Henry Holman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He led the group in the recitation of the *Pledge of Allegiance* and a moment of silence. He announced that the meeting was being recorded to aid in preparation of the minutes.

Authority members present:

Henry Holman, III, Chairman  
Jim Kocher, Vice-Chairman  
Elmer Knaub, Secretary  
CeCe Novinger, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer  
Russell Wertz

Professional staff present:

Dennis J. Shatto, Solicitor  
Randy Bailey, P.E., WM. F. Hill & Associates, Engineer  
Lew Massie, Facilities Operation and Management (FOAM), Operator

Authority staff present:

Susan Long, Treasurer, Recording Secretary

Visitors present:

See attached list of visitors.

**Minutes**

Upon a Kocher/Novinger motion, the Authority voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2017 minutes as presented.

**Engineer Report**

Engineer Randy Bailey reviewed the Engineer's report dated October 4, 2017

Sunshine Hill Water System, Stone Mill Estates

Engineer Randy Bailey reported that he spoke to John Zervanos on September 28<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Zervanos is a representative of Yingst Homes, the developer of the proposed Stone Mill Estates community. Mr. Zervanos told the Engineer that Yingst Homes is very interested in moving forward with the water system upgrade project. He stated that Yingst's engineer, Max Stoner, is evaluating the project to see which components could be value engineered to reduce overall construction costs. This evaluation should be completed within the next 7 to 10 days, after which a meeting will be scheduled with the Authority and Yingst representatives to discuss the project in greater detail.

## Mike Ward (MW2, Inc.) Sewer Connection Project

The Engineer reported that, as instructed by the Authority, he has not taken any further action to review the discharge data recorded by the MW2 Sentry Advisor.

## Perry County Beer

The Engineer reported that he has prepared the PA DOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) application necessary for Perry County Beer to connect to the sanitary sewer. He prepared it on PA DOT's website and will wait for Authority approval for final submission. Once received, the HOP will be valid for one year.

The Engineer reported that he has had no further communication with Mr. Filippone regarding the status of Norfolk Southern's approval for the installation of the proposed grinder pump/pressure sewer system.

## Operator Report

See report dated October 4, 2017.

Operator Lew Massie reported that the WWTPs and the Sunshine Hill water system operated within the permit limits during September.

He noted that the generators at the two WWTPs were exercised, a clog was removed from the Kinkora piping, the chemical feed pump at Cove was replaced with one from inventory. It was rebuilt and placed in inventory. He also noted that PSI had begun installation of the telemetry alarm system at Cove.

Lew reported on the time frame of the leak at the water system from September 17<sup>th</sup> through September 20<sup>th</sup>.

He again recommended the purchase of a refrigerated, automated influent and effluent composite sampler for Cove. He will provide a quote for materials and installation at the November meeting.

## Sunshine Hill Water System – Customer Concerns

Chairman Holman provided the Sunshine Hill water customers in attendance with a brief history of the water system, its past owners, and how DEP gave responsibility of maintenance of the system to the Authority.

He then informed them of the various income surveys taken for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding, of the grants that were received from the County and the State, which were later withdrawn because the average income of the customers was too high. He mentioned that discussions were held with the owner of Pfautz Apartments to supply water to the complex, but those discussions ultimately fell through. The complex owners were facing a DEP deadline to correct the arsenic level in their water and were concerned that water an agreement would not be reached before their deadline.

Chairman Holman explained that the Authority has a DEP-approved plan for a water treatment facility and water storage tank but does not have the money to construct it. He then talked about the improvements that have been made to the water system – some proactive and some DEP-mandated. He also noted that the Authority was cited for violations by DEP and paid a \$4,000.00 fine plus an additional \$15,000.00 to install a new water meter and flow restrictors.

He talked about the procedure to flush the water lines, and the difficulties to do it. The flow restrictor limits the pressure that can be used to flush the lines. The water storage tank is small and loses pressure as the water is removed from it. Flushing then must stop to allow the pressure to build back up in the tanks. Also, the 'dead ends' in a few of the lines do not allow 'through' flushing.

Chairman Holman than noted that the estimated cost of building the treatment facilities and water storage tank would be \$1,000,000.00, and another \$1,000,000.00 to replace the water mains.

Vice-Chairman Kocher stated that he was aware of a Facebook group of concerned citizens. He asked if the leader of the group was in attendance to direct questions to the Authority, rather than having the customers keep asking the same questions. He also implored the customers to start attending meetings, to provide input to the Authority and to get involved. He noted that the Authority can't work without them; they are the ones who are going to be footing the bill for the new facilities.

The following are the most common questions and comments made by the customers. Someone brought up the issue of digging their own wells, with the understanding that those who don't will have to pay a bigger share of the improvement costs. Solicitor Dennis Shatto responded that Penn Township Supervisors passed an Ordinance in 2014, mandating that every new dwelling within a certain distance of the water main connect to the system. He stated that the ordinance could be rescinded at the wish of the governing body. He cautioned that digging a well would not change the quality of the water – the iron and manganese would still need to be treated by the home owner. Additionally, there could be an issue with having a number of wells in the same area drawing down the water levels of other wells.

It was asked if the Authority could combine its system with the Borough's water system. Discussions have been held with the Borough about this. However, the Borough had received a CDBG grant for water system improvements which had a timeframe to start its project. There was concern on the part of the Borough that the funding might be lost if the timeframe was not followed, and the discussions stopped. Jim told the audience that a better match would be with the developer of Stone Mill Estates, who might possibly fund some of the cost of the new water facilities. The drawback is that the subdivision plan for the development has not yet been approved by the Township Supervisors.

Low water pressure was an issue with a number of the customers. Most of the houses on Sunshine Hill were built in the 1950s. The service line, copper or galvanized, from the curb box to the house will corrode over time and reduce the inside dimension of the pipe and reduce pressure. The customers were told that line is their responsibility to maintain and replace. One customer who had replaced his service line stated that he no longer had trouble with pressure.

Another cause of low pressure can be the build-up of materials inside the water meter. If the water meter is repaired and the pressure still remains low, the problem is probably in the service line.

Dirty, brownish water that stains clothes, dishwashers, washers, and bathtubs is caused by the iron and manganese in the water. The Authority treats the water, but it does not remove the iron and manganese. The customers reported that they do not want to drink or take showers in the water. Operator Massie informed them that the water is tested regularly according to DEP's schedule. He stated that the samples pass DEP's requirements, and it is safe to drink and bathe in.

One customer showed the filter from his whole house filtering system, which was extremely dirty, and stated that it needs to be changed very frequently. Chairman Holman noted that the Authority has been discussing the possibility of purchasing filters and reselling them to the customers at its cost. There was discussion that, if a group of residents wanted to install whole house systems, they should notify the Authority, who could recommend several plumbers who would give a group discount on labor and installation.

The Authority was asked if it has been continuing to look for grants because there was money available. The Engineer responded that the Authority was working with SEDA-COG, a broker for local governments, but has exhausted its leads. Customers were asked to notify the Authority with any information they had about available grants and low-interest funding sources.

Questions were asked about delinquent customers with large overdue balances and what was being done about them. The answer was that the largest delinquent account has been paid off and that delinquencies were down by \$33,000.00. The Authority has a procedure for filings with the Magisterial Justice and Perry County Prothonotary when a delinquency is greater than \$280.00.

The financial cost for a treatment facility, water storage tank, and new infrastructure was discussed. Chairman Holman noted that for every \$500,000.00 borrowed for 30 years at 0% interest, the cost would be an additional \$36.00 per quarter in addition to what is now being charged. Not factored in were the actual interest rate, and the increased costs for running the system. He also reminded the customers that the Authority was not permitted to borrow money without the approval of the Supervisors. Several of the customers who spoke agreed that they would have to pay more if they want better water. The Authority was asked to do a survey of the customers to find out their feelings about paying more for the improvements.

### **Field Representative Report**

There was no report.

### **Master Meter Report**

The master flow meter report was included in the Correspondence Folder for the members' review.

### **Penn Township Supervisor (PTS) Report**

There was no report.

### **Solicitor Report**

#### **1 Schoolhouse Road**

During periods of heavy rain, the grinder pump alarm at 1 Schoolhouse Road goes off for an extended amount of time. The owner has been notified of this several times in the past, but has done nothing to correct the I&I entering his collection system. The Solicitor sent the owner a letter, informing him of the need to correct this I&I situation. The owner then contacted the Solicitor, saying that the problem was there when he purchased the property and that he does not feel it is his responsibility to correct it. Staff will provide the Solicitor with any inspection reports for the property. The Solicitor will again contact the owner, telling him the I&I problem must be remedied. If necessary, the Authority will perform a smoke test at the expense of the owner, to determine the source of the I&I.

#### **Sheriff Sale**

The Solicitor reported on actions taken on several of the delinquent customers. He also will review the customers whose tapping fee balances are in arrears. The Solicitor will continue the procedure for Sheriff Sale for those properties that have a delinquency above the \$850.00 threshold.

It was noted that checks written in July and August and sent to the Magisterial District office for filing against delinquent accounts have not yet been processed by that office. The Solicitor will follow up on this issue.

#### **Mojo Taco and Mama Pat's Food Services**

The Solicitor had forwarded his opinion on whether additional tapping fees/monthly sewer charges should be assessed. Staff will contact Mr. Wright and tell him he may proceed with operation of Mojo Taco, but the Authority will discuss the issue further to decide if charges should be levied. No action will be taken at this time with Mama Pat's since her location is not connected to the sanitary sewer.

#### **MW2, Inc.**

The Solicitor has reminded Mr. Ward that the Authority needs to have the results of the dye testing and line televising to find the source of his I&I. Susan will review Mr. Ward's escrow account to see how much of the outstanding balance was for construction costs, and how much was for monitoring I&I.

## **Treasurer Report**

### **Delinquent Accounts**

The Solicitor reviewed the list of accounts delinquent as of September 30, 2017 and commented on several of them. Water delinquencies total \$1,434.81. Sewer delinquencies total \$77,798.00.

The Authority will continue to follow its procedure for filings with the District Judge and the Perry County Prothonotary.

### **Invoices and Expenditures**

The September invoices in the amount of \$64,662.12 were unanimously approved on a Novinger/Knaub motion.

### **Financial Report**

The Financial Report for September 30, 2017 was reviewed and approved on a Novinger/Kocher motion. The September 30<sup>th</sup> balance of all accounts was \$258,376.15. Of this, \$100,587.75 is earmarked for escrows and future projects, leaving an available balance of \$157,788.40 for operational expenses.

## **Executive Secretary Report**

The water meter at Haldemann's Landscaping is now giving an 'error' message when read. Karen will contact I J Technicals to see if the meter needs to be replaced.

## **JOAC Meeting**

The JOAC meeting will be held Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m., in the Duncannon Borough Office at 428 High Street.

## **Incoming/Outgoing Correspondence**

The Correspondence folder was reviewed individually during the meeting. Members are to let the office know if they want a copy of any item of correspondence.

## **Periodicals**

The newest periodicals are put on the table for the members to take. Leftover periodicals are discarded after the meeting.

## **Old Business**

### **Borough O&M Charges for 2016**

Susan reported that she still has not received the remainder of the O&M bills for the Duncannon WWTP. Until they are received, a reconciliation of 2016 expenses can not be completed.

### **108 Jefferson Street**

The Authority had previously discussed a letter from the owners of 108 Jefferson Street regarding their \$500.00 water bill for the months of April, May and June. Karen has been reading their water meter every two weeks to monitor their usage. Those readings, and the final usage reading for July through September, show normal usage. Because of the possibility of a problem with the meter, the bill for the second quarter will be adjusted.

### **26 Mountain Street**

There has been no answer from the owner on whether the property at 25 Mountain Street was subdivided to create 26 Mountain Street. The owner will now be billed for an additional dwelling unit.

## Computer Issues

Upon a Kocher/Knaub motion, the Authority unanimously approved the purchase of a new billing computer, at a cost not to exceed \$2,000.00.

## Betty Linnane Grinder Pump Invoice

Ms. Linnane had previously submitted questions regarding the costs of the labor to replace her pump, which is her responsibility, as well as questions about the repairs to rebuild the pump, which is the Authority's responsibility.

Field Representative Jody Hoffman of I J Technicals was not present to discuss the questions. Chairman Holman stated that Jody starts charging from the time that he leaves his business in Harrisburg. He drives to the Cove WWTP, picks up a loaner pump, goes to the customer's house, and replaces the faulty pump with the loaner. He then takes the faulty pump to his shop for repair. When he has several pumps repaired he loads them up, goes to the customers' houses, and replaces the loaners with the repaired pumps. He then takes the loaners back to the WWTP and returns to his shop. The owners whose pumps were repaired share the travel time for these swap-outs.

Susan noted the cost of the repair parts, which is now being paid by the Authority, and is at least \$1,400.00 per pump. She relayed that Jody replaces all the parts that are likely to fail, as recommended by the manufacturer, and provides a 6-month warranty on the rebuilds. If the Authority wishes, he will stop that process and just fix the actual problem. She also relayed that he bills by the quarter hour.

Susan relayed that the most common reason for pump failure is the introduction of foreign objects into the sewer system. The most frequent objects found are tampons and their plastic applicators, condoms, dental floss, baby and cleaning wipes, and grease. A letter will soon be sent to the owners of grinder pumps, reminding them that they will be financially responsible for all costs starting in January 2018. The letter will advise them that the above objects should never be flushed.

## 1109 State Road Abatement

Upon a Novinger/Kocher motion, the Authority voted unanimously to abate the sewer charges for 1109 State Road, since the building has now been demolished.

The owner will be sent a letter informing her of the action taken.

## **New Business**

### Haldeman Landscaping Water Meter

Mr. Haldeman has been getting unusually high readings when his water meter is read each month. Jody Hoffman will be requested to replace that water meter.

### Tubby's Night Club

Susan relayed from the Field Operator that the Sentry Alarm monitoring the Tubby's pump station goes off every time it rains. Karen will contact the owner and notify him that the waste line should have been capped after the fire destroyed the business.

## **Adjournment**

With all business completed, and upon a Kocher/Wertz motion, the Authority voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Susan E. Long

Recording Secretary