

April 19, 2016

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Thomas Carroll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Tom Carroll, David Renn, Aram Ecker, Jeff Chomnuk and Mike Benner. Also in attendance were Manager Mark Flanders, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Utilities Administrator Robert Plenderleith, Utilities Director Brent Wagner, Tom Weld, Cardno/BCM Engineers, Solicitor Vincent Pompo and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach. Bookkeeper Janice Lee was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Mr. Ecker reported that he met with the Manager as directed. He noted that no one was available to attend the recent seminar.

Chairman Carroll referred to the correspondence distributed including the April 28th Borough Dinner and the May 5th Region One monthly dinner.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Chomnuk moved to accept the minutes of March 15, 2016. Mr. Benner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Capital

Mr. Weld reported that the water and sewer replacement project of 2013 and piping work should be completed by end of the month. Paving will start at the end of April for those areas not yet addressed. Mr. Weld added that the 2015 project will be advertised for bid in May so as not to have two projects running at the same time.

Mr. Weld advised that the security systems are ongoing for both plants regarding compliance with existing cameras and swipe cards. He added Staff is currently installing the PLC for filter #5 at the Water Treatment Plant. The remainders will be addressed in order of #4, 3, 2 and 1 until completed.

Mr. Weld also reported that the bid for the Emergency Generator has been postponed until May 5th due to changes in company status.

Mr. Yerger added that the Televising and Cleaning bid will open this month for the fourth year and therefore by next year everything will be cleaned and TV'd throughout the system. Mr. Yerger added that no connections for Stormwater to domestic lines have been located thus far.

April 19, 2016

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Flanders reported that the renewal agreement with Portnoff Law firm for the collection of delinquent accounts will come before Council in June with a recommendation from Staff to continue with Portnoff. Mr. Flanders also advised that the Public Works Facility should have final inspection and Use and Occupancy within the next week.

Mr. Flanders advised that the Street Sweeping project will begin on May 2nd with an estimated 12-14 days for completion. He also invited all to participate in the Citizens Leadership Academy, which begins on May 3rd. Mr. Flanders also reported that PEMA has declared the January 22 and 23, 2016 snow event as a disaster and will be reimbursing the twenty-two municipalities. He added that Staff is finalizing the submission forms.

Mr. Flanders also requested authorization from the Board to place a new electronic message board on the Authority property located at Armand Hammer Boulevard and Medical Drive.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the report distributed. He advised that Act 10 was signed into law on March 26, 2016, which enhances investment opportunities for municipal authorities to include quality money markets and repurchase agreements. He would defer to financial advisors to make recommendations to individual authorities.

Solicitor Pompo also reviewed the discussion from last month regarding the proposed increase in fees on municipal waste and residual waste landfills disposal by \$1.75 per ton to \$8 per ton.

Mr. Wagner commented that the increase would be minimal as landfills are the least option.

Mr. Carroll questioned the benefit of a financial advisor regarding the Act 10 regulations.

Mr. Plenderleith commented that staff recently entered into certain long term investments against the water and sewer fund with Branch Bank and Trust and doing well at this time. He added that he would prefer to get through the 5-year capital plan prior to additional investments.

Manager Flanders agreed with Mr. Plenderleith's recommendation.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Weld noted that most items were previously reviewed under the Planning and Capital report. He also provided an update on the Sanatoga Green project proposed for Lower Pottsgrove Township. He explained that since the units will not be individually there would be the requirement of a single master water meter for the total development. The sewer issue would be between the developer and Lower Pottsgrove Township. Mr. Weld noted that he would provide additional information as received from the developers.

April 19, 2016

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reminded all of the upcoming Wastewater Treatment Plant tour scheduled for June 4th. Borough Council and the Townships have been invited as well. He also explained the problem with the dryer, having the gear box frozen to the shaft and will be down for approximately three to four weeks. Mr. Wagner advised that the trough and paddles are on site and also provided an update on other maintenance projects and training events.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger advised that the Water Distribution Supervisor position should be filled in the near future and provided an update on staff changes. He added that 63,000 feet of pipe will be televised under the current projects.

Mr. Weld added that during 2005-2006, there was 13% replacement of pipes for each year. He agreed to consult staff to update the number.

FINANCE

Mr. Plenderleith advised that the water fund is doing well and under budget on expenses. He added that the sewer fund is struggling slightly due to related dryer issues. Mr. Plenderleith also reported that there are no past issues from the Townships.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

ELECTRONIC SIGN

Mr. Flanders distributed an outline of the property wherein the new electronic sign would be placed and explained that this is the most beneficial site for the next sign.

Mr. Yerger advised that the cost of the new sign is approximately \$19,000, being funded by the Waste Management proceeds.

Mr. Benner moved to allow the Borough to install a new digital sign on the Armand Hammer Pumping Station property. Mr. Chomnuk seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

MEETINGS

Mr. Carroll confirmed that the next meeting is scheduled for May 17th with no meeting in June and August.

April 19, 2016

ICC PLUMBING CODE

Mr. Ecker brought up the item of Pottstown having a different set of requirements on materials and procedures than any other municipality in the State. He recommended that the 2009 International Plumbing Code be adopted by Borough Council.

Mr. Yerger commented that the Borough, after dropping the BOCA requirements, intentionally kept the specifications in place and all specifications were submitted to the State for approval. He added that this has been done twice in order to accommodate the Borough's system.

Chairman Carroll added that since the Country has moved forward with an International Code for plumbing, including water and sewer, and questioned if this Authority has power or authority over these issues and authority to request that Borough Council adopt the International Code for Plumbing.

Solicitor Pompo commented that anything that is part of the Authority's system is not subject to the building code itself and there is no standard to follow as required as part of the distribution system. The building aspect is covered by the Statewide Unified Construction Code, which includes plumbing.

Chairman Carroll requested that the Authority Manager investigate this matter and have listed for future meetings.

Mr. Weld warned that changing traps and other connections has previously resulted in excess infiltration, particularly when stacks are not held together.

Mr. Ecker expressed concerns regarding the materials used for drain pipes and standard toilets. He added that it is ludicrous not to have a double sanitary clean out T where the sewer is located. Mr. Ecker added that with the standard of 1.28 gallons toilets, it has become impossible to keep toilets unclogged with waste products, paper, feminine products and cleaning wipes.

Chairman Carroll requested that this matter be carried each month for discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. on motion by Mr. Renn.

Submitted by,

Virginia L. Takach, Borough Secretary
for Aram Ecker, Secretary