

September 20, 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, Mike Benner and Jeff Chomnuk. Also in attendance were Manager Mark Flanders, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Bookkeeper Janice Lee, Utilities Director Brent Wagner, Tom Weld, Cardno/BCM Engineers, Solicitor Vincent Pompo and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Charles Ricky Albitz, 205 Stephen's Way, Douglassville, PA – spoke on behalf of the Pottstown Rotary and requested authorization to install a water fountain at the Rotary Pavilion at Riverfront Park.

Manager Flanders suggested that initially, permission would need to be granted by the Borough and also requested that Mr. Albitz meet with the Public Works Director or with Montgomery County Community College to determine water access for that property.

PRESENTATION – AMEC FOSTER WHEELER

Nathan Walker, Water Resources Planner, was present on behalf of Amec Foster Wheeler, to provide the results of the Stormwater Management Study for a stormwater maintenance system in the Borough. He noted that over the last eleven months, his firm has met with Staff and Engineers for the Borough to outline the requirements and provisions for a stormwater maintenance system. He reviewed the present issues with the aging infrastructure and pipes and the 1,700 inlets and 6.5 miles of culverts throughout the Borough.

Mr. Walker advised that the amount spent on stormwater management by the Borough in 2015, was approximately \$500,000, including the infrastructure and capital improvements. Mr. Walker also noted that the cost is generated from the Waste Management Settlement, the general fund, liquid fuel and EPA grant funds. He added that costs would be borne by residents including tax exempt entities with the process to take as long as 12 years and planning possibly 5 to 7 years. The stormwater user fee may be approximately \$90 per household.

Mr. Weld explained that the Borough is in the second permit period with the MS4 program. He added that the second progress report is due next week and in 2017 the permit application will need to be submitted for additional stringent requirements.

Solicitor Pompo commented that if the intention is to impose a user fee to fund the Stormwater system, only second class townships have the authority to impose user fees. Municipal authorities have the authority to impose a fee if authorized for that purpose and if directed by Council. Mr. Pompo added that the Borough is not authorized to do so. The only option for Pottstown is for Borough Council to authorize the Authority to do that by increasing powers under the existing charter or create a new authority. Mr. Pompo also noted that this Authority could then take the step of passing a resolution to amend its Article of Incorporation. In turn the Borough would pass an Ordinance to agree to the Authority's resolution.

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After a brief discussion among the members and Staff, it was determined that the Authority Manager would seek direction from Borough Council to name the Authority or another entity to oversee the Stormwater Maintenance Plan.

AUTHORITY MAGAZINE REPORT

Mr. Benner reviewed the recent article in the *Authority Magazine* pertaining to Stormwater, wherein Representative Garth Everett is in support of a bill to have a statewide water quality improvement fund to offset costs for stormwater management. He also noted that York County is developing a County wide program to support communities in their efforts for programs to eliminate individual community policies.

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Mr. Ecker referred to the Borough's Association dinner scheduled for September 22nd and urged all to attend.

Mr. Weld also noted that his firm will be represented at the November 14 & 15th Utility Asset Management Summit in State College.

Chairman Carroll suggested that a member attend in order to report to the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Chomnuk moved to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2016 Pottstown Borough Authority meeting as presented. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

PLANNING & CAPITAL PROJECTS

Mr. Weld advised that the contractor is scheduled to begin work on October 17th for Contract 151, the Water Main Replacement Program with an initial project meeting scheduled for October 5th.

Chairman Carroll advised that the capital project committee is working to update the 5-year plan with a report due in November or December.

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Flanders advised that the final contract cost for the Public Works Facility was \$4,151,267.70, resulting in approximately \$77,200 over the contract sum and less than the total retainage cost expected. Mr. Flanders reminded all of the September 27th Joint School Board and Borough Council meeting, the October 10th PAL Food Festival and the October 22nd Brew Fest.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo reported that he received correspondence from the Lower Pottsgrove Township Solicitor regarding insurance proceeds by the Authority on the repairs to Screw Pump E,

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indicated that the proceeds should have been applied to capital costs and not to Operation & Maintenance. He is awaiting a response from the Township.

Mr. Flanders noted that he had correspondence indicating that the Township will be paying the bill with no further questioning.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Weld referred to the Hanover Square Commercial project and noted that plans have been reviewed and an escrow amount agreed upon, which are under review by the Solicitor.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reported that three operators have been hired for the Water Treatment Plant and are now at full staff. He added that the flocculators project has begun as preventive maintenance. Mr. Wagner also reported that he met with DEP regarding odor complaints and is working on a community outreach event, with the assistance of PCTV as well.

Mr. Wagner reported that the draft permit for the administrative extension has been received with no phosphorous findings and should be enacted by October 1st. He added that the bulk will be increased by 5% as of January 1, 2017 and will increase revenues from bulk users by approximately \$100,000 per year.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger reported that the contractors replacing manhole lids are using a new coring machine and is working well. He added the TV and cleaning contract is still underway. He also noted that Contract 146 is completed and the sewer crew is again doing regular maintenance. Mr. Yerger advised that the water crew is working on hydrant repairs and flushing process. He added that one position should be filled in the near future. Mr. Yerger also reported that a 20" water main broke on Queen Street, which the regular crew was able to repair within 12 hours. He also noted that a reported fish kill on Sprogels Run has been investigated by Staff and DEP with no evidence found to date.

FINANCE

Ms. Lee referred to the report distributed and advised that all Townships have been paid and a balance from Lower Pottsgrove Township is forthcoming. She also advised that the sewer revenues are at 69% and the expenses at 62%. In addition, the water revenues are at 65% and the expenses at 68%.

Mr. Wagner noted that any expense for the dryer should be seen in 2017.

Ms. Lee also noted that since August, residents must pay any outstanding bills, prior to paying the current bill and the process is working well.

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NEW BUSINESS

Solicitor Pompo requested a motion to ratify the amendment to the Leachate Agreement with the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority signed on August 18, 2016. He noted that due to a DEP requirement, the DEP would not accept the amendment due to a six-month notification requirement that was in the original agreement.

Mr. Chomnuk moved to ratify the August 18, 2016 action of the Pottstown Borough Authority amending provisions to the Leachate Agreement between the Delaware County Solid Waste Authority and the Borough Authority. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

PLUMBING CODE DISCUSSION

Mr. Ecker advised that he reviewed several matters under the Borough's Plumbing Code, the State Code and various provisions under the water and sewer regulations. He requested additional time to summarize the results.

Chairman Carroll suggested that this be tabled until a future meeting.

Mr. Chomnuk also noted that this should have been listed as an agenda item.

Manager Flanders suggested that a Staff meeting be scheduled to provide a summary of the findings, prior to being listed on the agenda.

Mr. Renn volunteered to assist in a Staff discussion as a member of the capital project committee.

OLD BOROUGH GARAGE

Mr. Yerger confirmed that the former Borough Garage, being Borough owned property, is presently undergoing a Phase I environmental study.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. on motion by Mr. Renn.

Submitted by,

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