

April 21, 2009

**POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY
SEWER**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Downie called the meeting to order at 8:22 p.m. Present were Ronald Downie, Don Read, Aram Ecker, Tom Carroll and Doug Dilliplane. Also in attendance were Manager Raymond Lopez, Solicitor David Garner, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Finance Director Janice Lee, Tom Weld, BCM Engineers, Utilities Coordinator Brent Wagner and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES

Chairman Downie asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 17, 2009 meeting. Hearing none, the minutes stood approved.

CONTRACT NO. 135 YORK STREET SEWER

Mr. Weld referred to the bid tabulation for the York Street Sewer Improvement project indicating fourteen bidders. He advised that the apparent low bidder was Joao Bradley Construction in the amount of \$884,330. Mr. Weld added that the bid information was forwarded to Upper Pottsgrove Township as part of the Cost Sharing Agreement and has received no comment from Upper Pottsgrove Township indicating its acceptance.

Mr. Dilliplane moved to award Contract No. 135 for the York Street Sewer Improvement project to Joao Bradley Construction, Bethlehem, PA, in the amount of \$884,300 subject to review of the Solicitor.

Mr. Brandt, *the Mercury*, commented that Upper Pottsgrove Township, at its April 20th meeting, agreed to bid out the Regal Oaks Pumping Station, which is associated with the York Street project.

Mr. Carroll seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GREEN PLANET ENERGY SOLUTIONS – LETTER OF SUPPORT

Mr. Weld referred to a draft letter to Green Planet Energy Solutions for an expression of interest with the intention of establishing a micro-algae growing and harvesting operations at the Industrial Complex for an industrial pre-treatment program. He requested the Board's authorization to forward the letter as interest in providing support for this project.

Solicitor Garner added that it may be beneficial to visit the Pottstown Industrial Complex website.

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Mr. Read moved to authorize the letter of support and expression of interest to be sent to Green Planet Energy Solutions, Ltd, regarding a Micro-algae growing and harvesting operations at the Pottstown Industrial Complex. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

SLUDGE

Mr. Wagner advised the Board that Zimmerman Brothers has been taking the biosolids to farm grounds and it has been discovered that they have been selling the sludge to farmers. The Department of Agriculture has informed him that the sludge now has to be classified as a Specialty fertilizer and the Plant to become a manufacturing facility of fertilizers. Mr. Wagner added that he is in the process of obtaining a license to have the Wastewater Treatment Plant become a fertilizing facility. He also noted that the Borough would now owe \$.15 per ton to the State, which would relate to a cost of approximately \$1,000 per year. The Facility will be called Pottstown Biosolids.

COMPOSTING

Mr. Yerger provided a handout on the BioCycle Composting site in Royersford, which he recently visited. He advised that Edward "Ned" Foley manages and maintains the site and stated that he would be present to provide additional information at the April 27th Trash Committee meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Mr. Wagner referred to the Staff Report and advised that the debt for outstanding accounts is decreasing with a goal of two years to eliminate the debt. He added that the haulers are being charged interest on a weekly basis. Mr. Wagner also advised that a decision has been made to not accept partial payments on outstanding FOG violations since the amount is usually a \$30 fee.

Mr. Yerger also commented on the process of reading meters and advised that any zero reads or extremely high reads are reread. He added that 110 meters were replaced last year.

SEWER LINES

OLD BUSINESS

CLEANING INDUSTRIAL HIGHWAY INTERCEPTOR

Mr. Yerger advised that the pipe was found to be in excellent condition for its age and will be reviewing the remainder of the project with the Engineer. He also advised that the property at 351 North Charlotte Street has filed for bankruptcy and he will have additional information from Bank officials within a few weeks in order to proceed with the lateral replacement.

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NEW BUSINESS

VAC TRUCK PRESENTATION

Mr. Wagner suggested that the \$250,000 fund from the Waste Management Agreement could be put to beneficial use with the consideration of a VAC Truck and explained that this piece of equipment is essentially a huge vacuum cleaner. He advised that the payback period would be approximately 5.4 years and could possibly allow for an additional position in the Public Works Department. He also noted that this could be utilized in conjunction with other municipalities.

Mr. Yerger also commented on the benefits of the newer equipment and software for televising and viewing the system.

Mr. Read suggested this matter be taken under advisement.

FINANCE

Mr. Wagner advised that an updated financial report would be provided monthly. He also referred to the draft of the new utility bill with a goal of implementing by January 1, 2010, with a simplified explanation of the utilities. He also noted that a revised billing system is being considered. Mr. Wagner also advised that there are intentions of streamlining the administrative fees into one document along with the purchase order and checks and balance system. He also noted that a draft 2010 budget should be available by June.

Chairman Downie suggested considering the possibility of separating the sewer and water bill from the trash bill.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ecker.

Submitted by Virginia Takach, Borough Secretary for
Don Read, Secretary