

March 21, 2023

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

ATTENDANCE

Present were Jeff Chomnuk, Aram Ecker, Mark Gibson and David Renn. Also present were Solicitor Vincent Pompo, Engineer Cory Salmon, Authority Manager Justin Keller, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Utilities Director Brent Wagner. Member Mike Benner, Bookkeeper Gerry Keszczyk and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Renn moved to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2023 meeting. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Keller reported that the lead line project is going well. He noted that in 29 of the 105 lines inspected, lead was found.

Mr. Salmon added that out of 176 properties investigated, 64 lead services have been identified and 5 of those are private.

Mr. Keller also reported that the UV project and the Air Scour project are expected to be completed within the next few months. He provided an update on the proposal with Mascaro's for an exchange of our sludge and their leachate after several informal meetings. He will have additional information for next month's meeting. A long-term agreement will be beneficial to the Authority.

Mr. Wagner added that there are several different options for hauling sludge in keeping with DEP requirements and outlined the difference between Class A and Class B sludge, adding that unclassified is when it goes to a landfill.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the report distributed. He advised that HB 31 would allow boroughs to address storm water management issues without needing to create a storm water management authority. This bill would not affect the present West Chester case as West Chester is a home-rule municipality.

Attorney Pompo also referred to HB 88, wherein a municipality would be protected if the newspaper failed to timely or properly advertise a notice. He also noted HB 99 proposes updates to the Right to Know Law. Another proposal is to increase the threshold for prevailing wages from \$25,000 to \$243,000. Solicitor Pompo also referred to HB 2224, "Rebuild Pennsylvania" to address infrastructure improvements. HB 247 is proposed legislation to require all municipal authorities to maintain a publicly accessible website. He also explained several other proposed legislations to address permitting process, destruction records, Right-To-Know commercial requests, all of which are outlined in his report.

March 21, 2023

Attorney Pompo advised that the West Chester case is now in the hands of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Salmon referred to the report distributed. He noted that with the pending Change Order for the UV project, it will remain under budget and the outstanding items include pipe supports, painting and exterior rehabilitation. The fabricated pipe supports are required for the installed UV piping. The close-out documents will be issued for next month's meeting. Mr. Salmon also provided a brief update on the Lead Service Line replacement project, with the intent to get through the investigation process for the 170 properties in the main area. Phase 2 will be funded from the Montgomery County ARPA Grant, anticipated in the amount of \$1,084,400. The deadline for the project is October 2024.

Manager Keller added that not as many lead services were identified as expected, which is good news for this project.

Mr. Salmon also referred to the CFA Small Water and Sewer Grant program awards are expected to be announced in July 2023.

Mr. Salmon reviewed the draft letters for agreements with property owners for different scenarios, essentially stating that the Authority will be replacing lead service lines identified on the property. He noted that the replacement pitchers referenced in the agreement will be clarified to note that replacement cartridges will be provided for 6 months. The EPA is requiring that this replacement be part of the PennVEST funding project.

After a brief discussion among the Board regarding code regulations, Mr. Salmon agreed to work with the contractors and discuss alternatives for connections with galvanized pipes.

Mr. Renn moved to authorize the Engineer and the Solicitor to continue with License Agreements for the water line replacements on private property. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reported that equipment is being received for the Lower Pump House and piping with expectations to install in the fall. He added that the RES valves are starting to arrive. Mr. Wagner advised that the dryer continues to run well. He also reported that over the past several years, the sludge characteristics from the Water Treatment Plant have been slowly changing, noting that the chemistry is now under control. He believes that the water level in the Schuylkill River has been low over the past few years. Additional calcium has been added to stop the repelling. Mr. Wagner noted that daily readings are taken at the Water Treatment Plant and working on the extraction process, adding that there is definitely a chemistry change in the Schuylkill River.

Mr. Wagner advised that he is working with Mr. Keszczyk and the Capital Budget for a cost analysis to consider trucking the sludge in house, due to the increasing costs.

Mr. Wagner also reviewed the turbidity level occurrence of November 7, 2022. Mr. Keller reminded all that he discussed and sent an email to clarify the turbidity issue reported in the recent Water Quality report.

March 21, 2023

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger reported that the water crew has been replacing 400' of pipe in the Morris and Price Street area, which should be completed shortly.

FINANCE

Mr. Keller referred to the report distributed and provided the report in Mr. Keszczyk's absence. He reported that the audit is still in progress. He also noted that there has been a decrease in the O & M in the amount of \$55,000. The sludge disposal was \$67,000 for the month and still under budget and bulk revenue was at \$206,000 for February, which results in \$33,00 over budget for year to date. Mr. Keller added that after the recent Authority/Township meeting, the committee is asking for a member of the Authority Board to attend the meetings.

Mr. Ecker suggested quarterly meetings and Mr. Chomnuk suggested evening meetings as the majority of the Board works during the day.

The Board was satisfied with Mr. Keller and Mr. Wagner representing the Authority at these meetings. Mr. Keller agreed to provide these suggestions to the committee at the next Authority/Pottsgrove Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Authorize Solicitor and Engineer to coordinate Agreements with any Customers requiring replacement of lead service lines - Mr. Gibson moved to authorize the Solicitor and Engineer to coordinate agreements for any customers requiring lead service line replacements. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Ratify Action – Authorization to become a party at West Pottsgrove Zoning Hearing regard proposed Wawa - Mr. Renn moved to authorize the Engineer to represent the Authority and to become a party at West Pottsgrove Zoning Hearing regard proposed Wawa. Mr. Gibson second the motion.

Mr. Keller advised that the proposed Wawa is only 1,000' from the Authority's water intake and in the watershed of Yerger Run.

Mr. Salmon advised that he attended the meeting and was granted party status with the right to appeal the process. He noted that the use is authorized in that zone and most likely nothing to appeal. Mr. Salmon advised that each statement was objected to by the applicant's attorney but remains on the records.

Solicitor Pompo commented that the DEP and environmental services will have concerns on this project and will require notifications of any spills near the water intake.

Mr. Salmon added that the project engineer and developer agreed to keep the Authority informed during the land development process.

The motion passed unanimously.

March 21, 2023

b. Approval of PENNVEST Reimbursement Request No. 1 in the amount of \$60,985.54 - Mr. Ecker moved to approve the PennVEST Reimbursement Request No. 1 in the amount of \$60,985.54. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion.

Mr. Cory advised that this includes engineering and application fees as part of the PennVEST grant but no construction or legal fees at this time.

The motion passed unanimously.

c. Formal approval of Application for Payment No. 5 for Contract No. WTP-21-2 (UV Electrical Construction) in the amount of \$9,057.35 (February 10, 2023) - Mr. Gibson moved to authorize Payment No 5 for Contract No. WTP-21-2 (UV Electrical Construction) in the amount of \$9,057.35. Mr. Renn seconded the motion.

Mr. Salmon noted this is the final application for payment for the Electrical Contract for the UV project.

The motion passed unanimously.

d. Approval of Change Order No. 1 for Contract No. WTP-21-1 (UV General Construction) in the amount of \$14,100.00 for six (6) additional stainless steel pipe supports for the load of the existing 14" TEE - Mr. Renn moved to approve the Change order No. 1 for Contract No. WTP-21-1 (UV General Construction) in the amount of \$14,100.00 for six (6) additional stainless steel pipe supports for the load of the existing 14" TEE. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion.

Mr. Salmon advised that this was referred to in his written report as the final payment to the General Contractor on this project.

The motion passed unanimously.

e. Discussion and possible approval of the renewal of HRG's Flow Metering Assistance services (HRG No. 7010.0450) under the same terms of the existing project in the amount of \$19,300.00 for April 2023 to April 2024 - Mr. Renn moved to approve the renewal of HRG's Flow Metering Assistance services (HRG No. 7010.0450) under the same terms of the existing project in the amount of \$19,300.00 for April 2023 to April 2024. Mr. Gibson seconded the motion.

Mr. Salmon explained that this amount covers HRG's involvement from the time of coming on board with the metering project.

The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. on motion by Mr. Gibson.

Submitted by,

Virginia L. Takach, Borough Secretary
for David Renn, Secretary