

April 18, 2023

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mike Benner, 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Gibson moved to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2023 meeting. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Keller reported that the 50 water meters have been delivered and installation will begin soon. He also advised that the intent to Bargain has been received from AFSCME and internal discussions have begun.

Mr. Keller also noted that another positive meeting was held with Pat Mascaro to establish a long-term agreement for trading services for the leachate and sludge. He also advised that the physical IT/OT separation at the Water Treatment Plant has been completed so now completely disconnected from the outside world.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the report distributed. One new bill has been introduced dealing with municipal authorities, which would amend the municipality Authorities Act by reducing the election of municipal authority board members, as opposed to being appointed, with a minimum age of 18 years.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Salmon provided an update on the lead service project. As of April 17th there have been 86 lead services identified and 58 replaced. He added that there are 40 more services to investigate for more lead services and estimating 106 total. Mr. Salmon also advised the PennVEST does not cover full restoration, only trench restoration. There are still only 5 private lines identified.

Mr. Keller added that this make be looked at next year for the Borough paving project. It is temporary paving **now** to let it settle for at lease a month.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reported that the Air Scour at the Water Treatment Plant, #6 filter is complete and working on #5 and the IT program is being worked on currently. He noted certain staff changes and reported that the Wastewater Treatment Plant should have a full staff by May 1st.

April 18, 2023

Mr. Wagner also reported that the maintenance staff at the Wastewater Treatment Plant completed the cleaning project for cleaning the pre-air Tank 2 and installed the new diffuser.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger advised that staff is working on maintaining the list of lead lines. The sewer crew will be finalizing the trench line at Morris and Price Streets and will mill with the annual road paving project. Mr. Yerger also reported that the sewer collection crew is still working on storm drains in the area of Prospect Street.

Mr. Yerger added that PennDOT is making certain T-intersections in the area of Hanover Street, a state road. He also provided a brief explanation regarding the hydrants in the area of Jefferson Avenue and East Street and Jefferson Avenue and Hale Streets. He noted that there are three feeds coming into Adams, Grant, Beech and Thomas Streets and all converge into one spot. There are also two zones in the area due to the two Washington Hill tanks in the area. Mr. Yerger also explained the use of "backward valves" since 1963 or 1964.

Mr. Keller requested a report on the Backward valves for the next meeting.

FINANCE

Mr. Keszczuk referred to the reports in the packets. He advised that at the end of March, the water fund revenues are at 21% and the expenses at 23%. The Water fund expenditures are showing a negative due to the debt service payment being paid one month ahead; therefore, Mr. Keszczuk noted that he paid 4 months of debt service in 3 months. He also reported that the sewer fund revenues are at 26% and expenses at 17% to date. The bulk sewer revenue is over budget by \$26,000 and sludge hauling is under budget by \$73,000.

Mr. Keszczuk also advised that \$30,000 has been transferred to the General Fund for the bulk hauling tipping fees. The audit is still in process. He also explained that the Portnoff collections were halted during COVID in 2020 and 2021. Collections resumed in 2022.

OLD BUSINESS

Temporary License Agreement – Water Services

Mr. Salmon referred to the draft Irrevocable Temporary License Agreement associated with the lease service project. He noted that a few minor edits will be incorporated based on comments from Mr. Keller and Mr. Place. A licensed master plumber with the Borough will be required and either the contractor or the resident would be required to obtain a water service replacement permit prior to work occurring.

Mr. Salmon added that in the letter, information on obtaining the permit will be provided. He added that the contractor would provide a single continuous pipe.

Mr. Keller noted that only 5 properties having been identified on private property, making the project more feasible. The replacement will be from the curb stop into the house. If the home owner refuses to hire a plumber, it will be noted on their record and will need to make corrections at their own cost.

April 18, 2023

Solicitor Pompo confirmed that the language is appropriate and it was the consensus of the Board to allow HRG to proceed.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Payment No. 1 – Contract LR-1 (Joao & Bradley) – Motion by Mr. Ecker, seconded by Mr. Renn to approve the application for Payment No. 1 for Contract LR-1 (Joao & Bradly) in the amount of \$197,694.00. Motion carried: 5 ayes.

b. Payment Request No. 2 PennVEST – Motion by Mr. Benner, seconded by Mr. Renn for authorization to submit payment request No. 2 to PennVEST in the amount of \$230,763.92 (includes legal fees, engineering fees, and construction costs.) Motion carried: 5 ayes.

Mr. Gibson and Mr. Ecker reported on the recent conference which they attended. Mr. Gibson noted that Mr. Salmon was a presenter. The conference was very informative.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m. on motion by Mr. Gibson.

Submitted by,

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