

April 20, 2010

**POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY
WATER**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Downie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Present were Ron Downie, Doug Dilliplane, Don Read, Aram Ecker, and Tom Carroll. Also in attendance were Interim Authority Manager Jason Bobst, Solicitor David Garner, Tom Weld, BCM Engineers, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Bookkeeper Janice Lee, Utilities Coordinator Brent Wagner and Borough Secretary Virginia Takach.

PRESENTATION – JOHNSON CONTROLS

John Bonan and Jerrold Johnson, Johnson Controls, were present to provide the Board with information regarding water meters. Mr. Bonan explained the automatic and advanced meter Reading System and the benefits of automatically collecting data as related to the billing system. Mr. Bonan also reviewed the approximate cost of \$1.6 million with a savings of \$200,000.

Chairman Downie advised that it was the consensus of the Board to allow Johnson Controls to provide a sample RFP for information purposes and after reviewed, have an expert meet with Staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Dottie Rivera, 8 West 5th Street – provided information about an outside water leak, which she had reported in March. She also advised that her water is due to be shut off on April 26th. Ms. Rivera noted that she has made several attempts to reach her landlord with no results. She also advised that the property is in foreclosure status.

Mr. Yerger added that he also has not been able to contact the landlord regarding the leak of the service line. He agreed to contact the bank or attorney associated with the property.

Chairman Downie requested that every avenue be pursued prior to shutting off the water.

b. Som Basu, 28 Blackberry Drive – questioned why his quarterly water bill, which averaged \$98, is now \$1,186.

Mr. Yerger advised that a faulty meter would slow down the water flow and register on the low side. He added that the meters are tested by a third party.

Mr. Bobst agreed to have Staff review and inspect the meter at the property.

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c. Paul Stroop, 349 Beech Street – questioned why the units are calculated and rounded off rather than using the exact amount of the usage. He noted that at least three times, his usage has been rounded up to benefit the Borough and one time, rounded down to his benefit.

Ms. Lee agreed to contact Dallas Data to check the calculations.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MARKETING

Sanatoga Interchange Area

Mr. Weld reported that he had a meeting with representatives of Lower Pottsgrove Township along with DEP. He advised that discussions took place regarding upcoming development at the Sanatoga Interchange and requested authorization to contact Lower Pottsgrove Township regarding water service.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the Manager/Authority Manager to correspond with Lower Pottsgrove's and Limerick's managers and report to the Board.

ENERGY

Pottstown Industrial Complex, Solar Energy Proposal

Mr. Wagner advised that Solicitor Garner was notified by the Pottstown Industrial Complex for the feasibility of putting in solar panels on the roof with the possibility of supplying electricity to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which will still go out to the grid. Mr. Wagner agreed to provide additional information as received.

Mr. Wagner is also looking into the possible use of natural gas and will provide a report.

ODOR

There were no odor reports.

RESTRUCTURING

Chairman Downie advised that a meeting is scheduled for April 21st with Advisory Counsel Robert Jones and the Executive members of both Boards, with the purpose being to review the Agreements and for Attorney Jones to provide suggestions. He added that no decisions would be made at this meeting.

Mr. Read commented that he was included in the email report from Attorney Jones but objected to his not being included in the meeting and noted that he has been

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working on this project for several years and stated his disagreement to this process. Mr. Read also suggested that he could motion that the meeting not be held.

Chairman Downie advised that he would not entertain such a motion. He commented that Mr. Read chose to not be part of the Executive Committee.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Lee referred to the reports distributed. She advised the Tax Anticipation Note was not needed. Ms. Lee also noted that the Auditors are two-thirds completed with the Authority audit and confirmed that the Township requirement will be met. She also provided an update on the Cell Tower leases and the Authority projects.

Ms. Lee also provided a report on the status of the summary of properties listed for Sheriff Sale.

Solicitor Garner explained the process of liens, sheriff sales and upset sales.

Mr. Read commented on the meeting with Portnoff and noted that a summary of collections will be provided to the Borough. He suggested informing the Borough that the Authority is not satisfied with the collection rate.

Mr. Bobst advised that an agreement with Portnoff is in place until June 2011 with a conclusion to be determined at that time. He added that an internal decision was made with Staff to no longer accept payment plans for utilities, which would be handled directly through Portnoff.

Solicitor Garner suggested that the trash fee be pulled out of the Portnoff reports.

Ms. Lee confirmed that she would review this with the Portnoff.

OLD BUSINESS

MINUTES

Chairman Downie asked for additions or corrections to the minutes of the March 16, 2010 meeting. Hearing none, the minutes stood approved.

H2O PA GRANT APPLICATIONS – ROUND #2

Mr. Weld provided a summary of the four active grants projects open under the H2O Grant. He added that the deadline is June 1st for application. Mr. Weld's suggestion was to delete the digester blower project and insert the utility water pump project. He also explained the benefit of joint applications and the support of elected officials.

Chairman Downie suggested authorizing Staff to move ahead with applications.

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AUTOMATION REPORT

Mr. Wagner advised that the goal is to fully automate the Water Treatment Plant by the end of the year and will provide reports to the Board.

PAUL PRINCE, 323 KING STREET

Solicitor Garner advised that this is a matter for executive session.

NEW BUSINESS

UTILIZATION OF CONTRACTORS UNDER AGREEMENT WITH MUNICIPALITIES BEING SERVED BY PBA

Solicitor Garner recommended a policy or standing agreement be adopted regarding paving issues with surrounding municipalities. He cited the two water main breaks in West Pottsgrove Township and the procedure being followed that the Authority would pay the cost of paving based on the unit pricing with the responsibility for maintenance falling to the Townships.

Mr. Read moved to endorse a policy with municipalities regarding water line replacements, to be able to utilize contractors under contract with the municipality to address emergency paving or other issues that may arise. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

LABOR NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. Bobst reported that he is meeting regularly with an internal staff committee to review and make recommendations to the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, which will be provided to the Borough Solicitor for review.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ecker.

Submitted by

Virginia Takach, Borough Secretary
for Don Read, Secretary