

September 21, 2021

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chomnuk called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present were Mike Benner, Jeff Chomnuk, Tom Carroll, Aram Ecker and David Renn. Also in attendance were Solicitor Vincent Pompo, Attorney Maureen McBride, Authority Manager Justin Keller, Engineer Cory Salmon, Public Works Director Doug Yerger and Utilities Director Brent Wagner. Engineer Josh Fox was virtual. Bookkeeper Gerry Keszczyk was absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 20, 2021 - Mr. Renn moved to approve the July 20, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. Benner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Capital

Mr. Renn had nothing to add to the Engineer's Report.

Townships Meeting Report

Mr. Carroll reported that there have been no discrepancies with any of the Townships and all is going well.

Inflow and Infiltration Committee

Mr. Carroll reported that the committee is working to document rain meters, sump pumps, laterals and floor drains, at a time when a property changes owners or when sewer mains are going in. He noted that while work is being done, Public Works and Codes can enter information into the system.

Engineer Cory Salmon added that work is being done on Spruce Street with inspections of those laterals. Most residents have been cooperative.

Mr. Carroll also requested a report to the Board when the project is completed.

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Manager Keller reported that the Borough got through Hurricane Ida with no major damage or injuries. He noted that most of the damage occurred in Memorial Park with approximately \$30,000 in damages. He also reported that a tentative agreement has been reached with AFSCME and is scheduled to be voted upon early next week.

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Mr. Keller also advised that a marketing manager, Danette Wilson, is working with PAID and being shared with the Borough to enhance social media sites.

Mr. Keller reported on the successful meeting with DEP, including resolution with the Notice of Violation for the water odor and the sewer backup on Queen Street, which has been cleared. He added that DEP approved moving forward with the LT2 project for the turbidity tool box kit. The Sustainable Energy Plant project is moving forward, along with an entertainment venue in the Keystone Boulevard. Mr. Keller added that the budgets will be presented at the October meetings.

Mr. Ecker expressed a concern on the numerous manhole covers that were lifted off during the recent rain storm, specifically where the pipes were just replaced.

Mr. Keller commented that the pipes were not designed to carry storm water. He added that the problem is coming from private properties, which the I & I study is addressing.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the written report distributed and noted matters regarding Upper Pottsgrove Township will be discussed in executive session. He also introduced his law partner, Attorney Maureen McBride.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Engineer Cory Salmon was present for Josh Fox and referred to the report distributed. He noted that the operations permit was received for the LT2 Enhanced Surface Water project and the turbidity tool box, along with the permit for the UV Installation project. The bids should be out by the end of September in time to satisfy the April 1, 2022 deadline.

Mr. Salmon also advised that the 2021 Water and Sewer replacement project is underway. He commended staff member John Jenkins for his assistance in this project. He added that he is working with Brent Wagner on an extension of the NPDES Permit Renewal and working on the AWIA and Resilience Assessment Plan prior to the EPA deadline of December 9, 2021. Mr. Salmon also updated the Board on the Lead Line replacement project, noting the formal application was submitted to PENNVEST on August 4, 2021 and noted that the final total PENNVEST amount for the project is \$6,072,000. He will keep the Board advised of the scope and parameters of this project.

Mr. Salmon advised that HRG is working with the Solicitor to finalize the agreement with Wachs for the Valve Exercising Program.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reported that both plants performed well during the recent rain storm. He advised that all equipment at the Water Treatment Plant was moved to the second floor and is considering a permanent move. He added that DEP had an evaluation event on September 1st which went well. Mr. Wagner also explained the use of the turbidity tool box for the UV system. He also reported that the Air Scour project is 80% complete with target date of March 2022.

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Mr. Wagner also explained the limits of dichloramine at the Wastewater Treatment Plant and is making attempts to meet the limits. He also expressed concerns on the supply chains, specifically chemicals and plastics, adding that the goal is to accomplish tasks in-house.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger reported that Staff is working and televising blockages in clay pipes. He also explained the lateral issue behind Oak Street properties between Charlotte and Hanover Streets. He noted that a solution would be to lay a pipe through the alley. Mr. Yerger also advised that a water leak was found on Shoemaker Road and is being addressed. He added that flushing will be postponed due to the valve and leak projects. Fire plug painting will also be postponed.

Mr. Ecker also commented on the water in basements on the 1300 block of Cherry Street during the recent rain storm.

Mr. Yerger noted that when sump pumps or issues are found, they get added to the master storm water plan.

FINANCE

Mr. Keller reported that the water fund revenues are at 68% and expenses at 66%. The sewer fund revenues are at 69% and expenses at 65% year to date. He added that the bulk revenues are over budget at \$288,000 and the sludge hauling fund under budget at \$39,000. Mr. Keller added that the third quarter O & M reconciliations are up to date. He also explained the capital costs budgeted with the Townships as well.

NEW BUSINESS

PBA Annual Audit

Mr. Keller noted that the Audit was presented electronically to the Board and recommended approval.

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the Annual Audit for the Pottstown Borough Authority for the year 2020. Mr. Benner seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Chomnuk recessed the meeting to executive session at 8:05 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m. on motion by Mr. Ecker.

Submitted by,

Virginia L. Takach, Borough Secretary
for Thomas Carroll, Secretary