

January 19, 2021

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

Solicitor Pompo served as Temporary Chairperson and called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

REORGANIZATION

Chairman Pompo requested nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Mr. Carroll moved that all officers retain current positions on the Board. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and passed unanimously.

ATTENDANCE

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Benner moved to approve the December 15, 2020 minutes as presented. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Capital

Mr. Renn requested an update on the dryer.

Mr. Wagner advised that the dryer is producing 68-69 tons and has been running well. He added that only a few minor issues remain and is working with DEP on these matters.

Mr. Keller added that the issues with DEP exist as DEP may not be familiar with this unit.

Townships Meeting Report

Mr. Carroll reported that at the recent Township meeting, he commented on behalf of himself and the Board, that he was not pleased that Lower Pottsgrove used the information to share with its solicitor and noted that this is not the purpose of the Township/Authority meetings. He advised that the issue of the dryer will not be listed as a line-item on future agendas.

Chairman Chomnuk, on behalf of the Board, thanked Mr. Carroll for his actions at the Township meeting.

January 19, 2021

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Keller reported that Council voted to extend payment from Upper Pottsgrove Township regarding the Kummerer project to March 31, 2021. He also advised that he is working on a COVID 19 vaccine plan, initially for essential staff and eventually for all employees.

Mr. Keller also reported that he is working with West Pottsgrove to establish an agreement for fire service and may include certain provisions regarding the Authority. He added that the Authority members were included in the new iSolve initiative for the self-reporting portal.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the report distributed. He reviewed several legislative matters, including HB 139, which would require DEP to handle the administration of permits for applicant including municipal authorities and establish deadlines. He also advised that the former Kummerer Road project is renamed to Pottsgrove Hunt. Solicitor Pompo updated the Board on the negotiations between Upper Pottsgrove, the sale of its sewer system and the Authority. He explained that a check was received from Upper Pottsgrove's Solicitor in the amount of \$25,350.05 representing amounts owed for reimbursement of the Siphon project of 2017, adding that it was indicated that prior reimbursements were incorrect as the Authority was entitled to only a 68% portion and the developer was also entitled to a percentage. He is awaiting further response from Upper Pottsgrove's Solicitor.

Mr. Keszczyk noted that he calculated the amount due as of June 2020 to be \$470,184.22 plus \$104,000 interest.

After a brief discussion, it was the consensus of the Board members to not accept a partial payment until an agreement is reached with Upper Pottsgrove, PA America and the Authority. Solicitor Pompo will discuss the matter of cashing the check with Upper Pottsgrove's Solicitor, wherein no settlement issue would exist.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Cory Salmon was present for Josh Fox. He referred to the report distributed and updated the ongoing projects. He advised that when the blowers arrive on site, the Air Scour System will proceed. He also advised the LT2 Surface Water Rule project is under review with DEP, including HRG's recommendation that the dual media filtration rate be increased from 1.98 gpm to 3.0 gpm. Work is on target for compliance with the Consent Order and Agreement with cost still within budget.

Mr. Salmon also provided an update on the 2021 Water and Sewer Replacement Project, noting the contact documents are nearly complete and being reviewed by Mr. Yerger and working through issues with PennDOT on the right-of way matter on Sanatoga Road. An agreement will be forthcoming to the Board. He also provided a brief update on the Spring Valley Farms Phase 3 project, which should be finalized in the near future.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Wagner reiterated his update on the dryer. In addition, staff continues to take all preventive

January 19, 2021

measures during the COVID crisis. He advised that an extension was granted to address the audit, which will occur in February. He added when the Air Scour parts are in, two full-time maintenance employees will be addressing the project.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger reported that crews are working in split shifts due to COVID. He added that water main breaks have subsided.

FINANCE

Mr. Keszczyk reported that at the end of December 2020, the water revenues stand at 100% and expenses at 94%. The sewer revenues are at 98% and expenses at 96%. The bulk revenue is under budget by \$149,000 for the end of the year and sludge hauling is over budget by \$46,000. He also advised that the audit is scheduled for the weeks of February 15th and 22nd and the first quarter Pottsgrove O & M's were sent out.

NEW BUSINESS

I & I Committee

Mr. Keller explained the recommendation of HRG to form an I & I Committee to address concerns on private properties, which is done in other municipalities.

Chairman Chomnuk appointed Mr. Carroll to Chair the committee to include Mr. Keller and Mr. Ecker and possibly a Council member and members of the community.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Chomnuk recessed the meeting to executive session at 7:55 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted by,

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