

May 21, 2019

POTTSTOWN BOROUGH AUTHORITY

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Chomnuk called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Present were Jeff Chomnuk, Aram Ecker and David Renn. Also in attendance were Authority Manager Justin Keller, Public Works Director Doug Yerger, Bookkeeper Janice Lee and Budget Analyst Gerry Keszczyk. Members Tom Carroll and Mike Benner were absent.

PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Kim Moore, 102 Winchester Drive – spoke for residents of the Spring Valley Farms Development and expressed concerns regarding the sprinkler charge on the utility bills. She noted that she previously spoke to Lower Pottsgrove Manager Ed Wagner and State Representative Joe Ciresi regarding the situation. She also commented that Ryan Homes should have made the residents aware of the \$40.58 sprinkler fees for water not currently being used.

b. John Giersch, 104 Steeplechase Lane – also commented that he received a letter of explanation two months prior to the charges being assessed and questioned how long these charges would be assessed on the bills.

Mr. Keller agreed that the bill may be confusing, and a revised bill is being processed. He added that the developer was aware of the sprinkler requirement and the Township has had a sprinkler ordinance in effect for many years. Mr. Keller also explained that the sprinkler fees cover various aspects of the system.

Ms. Lee added that sprinkler fees are fairly new to the Borough's billing system and therefore a letter of explanation was sent to the residents. She also noted that customers are added to the system during the settlement process and new customers will be informed at that time.

Solicitor Pompo also explained that these fees have been in effect for quite some time and the fees allow the Authority to recuperate costs involved with sprinkler and public safety services and calculations were made in order to justify the fees. He added that special facilities had to be constructed including a water tank and a valve system for this community. Solicitor Pompo added that the Authority may be considering a reevaluation of the fees.

c. James Bondi, 101 Winchester Drive - suggest that Pottstown review the costs of sprinklers with several other municipalities.

Additional Spring Valley Farm residents present were Harry Garvin, Mary Bruce Herpich, Dot Giersch, Nancy Doyle, Gail Bellwoar, Madlyn Petaccio, Carol Uston, Kevin Hall and Helen Lucke.

Ms. Lee commented that the water budget for Pottstown and Lower Pottsgrove Township is \$7 million.

May 21, 2019

d. Madelyn Petaccio, 110 Jackson Lane – also questioned the status of the unused water.

Chairman Chomnuk requested that the Spring Valley Farms residents return for the September Authority meeting with expectations that this matter will be addressed and resolved.

e. Robin Cimino, 11 Wendell Drive – requested consideration in the requirement to connect to the public water system. She added that Borough employees inspected the basement and identified a sealed valve and also found a water pipe from the basement out to the curb. Ms. Cimino advised that she is trying to sell the home, owned by her father, Charles Schutz, and the requirement for the hook-up is an approximate cost of \$14,000 and requested the Authority's consideration in this matter.

Additional members present regarding the 11 Wendell Drive matter were Chuck Schutz, Rick Finaldi and Corey Good.

Mr. Yerger explained the history regarding connections on Wendell Drive and the requirements of the Ordinance to connect to the public system at the time a property is transferred. The cost for connection is approximately \$2,156 and a street opening permit of \$50 and a \$500 escrow fee, held for one year. Mr. Yerger also suggested that Ms. Cimino could go before Council to waive the ordinance requirement.

After discussion among the Board, Mr. Ecker moved to waive all Borough fees except the road opening escrow requirement, in the amount of \$2,204.00 for the 11 Wendell Drive matter. Mr. Renn seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Carroll moved to approve the April 16, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Ecker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning & Capital

Mr. Renn reported that the dryer is 90% operational and should have the Class A permit by July. There remains four items on the punch list. He added that the new screen project will start after the dryer is taken over. Mr. Renn also advised that Hach is scheduling a review of the new meters.

Authority-Townships Meeting Report

Mr. Keller reported the Lower Pottsgrove Manager Ed Wagner commented that the Operation and Maintenance numbers were fake. Mr. Keszcyk provided a chart on the flows.

AUTHORITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Keller advised that the job description for Civil Engineer will be updated and readvertised. He also reported that the Hanover Street sidewalk construction will occur over the next two weeks.

May 21, 2019

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Solicitor Pompo referred to the report distributed. He noted that Act No 4 of 2019 amended the Municipal Authorities Act, establishing minimum fiscal procedures and was approved by the Governor on May 1, 2019. He also reviewed several pending bills.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Keller referred to the Engineers' reports distributed in the packets.

PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Yerger advised that new sewer lines are being installed behind the old Van Buskirk building. He added that flushing continues for three weeks, along with the cleaning and televising project.

FINANCE REPORT

Mr. Keszczuk referred to the reports distributed, noting that the water revenues are at 33% and expenses at 30%. The sewer expenses are at 37% and revenues at 31%. Mr. Keszczuk also advised that the audit is complete, and the reports are being distributed at the meeting.

Ms. Lee also advised that Upper Pottsgrove is reviewing proposals to selling its sewer system.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendment Water Main Specifications

Mr. Ecker moved to adopt a Resolution amending the Standard Technical Specifications related to construction of water mains. Mr. Renn seconded the motion.

RESOLUTION NO. 1-2019

AMENDING THE STANDARD TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER MAINS AND APPURTENANCES TO REMOVE INCONSISTENCIES AND CONSOLIDATE REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER SERVICE LINE REPAIRS; TO REVISE REQUIREMENTS FOR METER PITS; AND TO MAKE OTHER REVISIONS FOR CONSISTENCY; EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY UPON ADOPTION.

The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

2019 Water and Sewer Replacement Project

Mr. Yerger reviewed the bid tabulation in Mr. Fox's absence. He noted that Alternate 1 is not being recommended at this time. The recommendation of the Engineer and Staff is to award the base bid for this project.

May 21, 2019

Mr. Renn moved to award the 2019 Water and Sewer Replacement Project to Abbonizio Contractors, Inc., for the base bid amount of \$1,252,795.50. and issue the notice to proceed with the project. Mr. Ecker seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Colebrookdale Railroad – Waiver of Fees

Mr. Keller advised that the station project for the Colebrookdale Railroad is requesting a waiver of fees for water and sewer connections.

Mr. Yerger outlined the costs totaling \$4,039. He also noted that a sewer main was put in with no inspections and no fees, adding that the railroad is federal property.

It was the consensus of the Board to not waive the fees as requested at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Yerger advised that he is working on the Pleasantview Road and the Park Road bridges to design a plan to provide the weight of water on these bridges.

RFQ – Upper Pottsgrove Sewer

Ms. Lee advised that she received notification that Public Finance Management was officially hired by Upper Pottsgrove Township to conduct Requests for Qualifications regarding the assessment and sale of its sewer system and to identify potential bidders.

It was the consensus of the Board to have no interest in bidding at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. on motion by Mr. Renn.

Submitted by,

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