

**LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY**

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

APRIL 17, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The regular monthly meeting of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority was called to order at 5:00 p.m., at the Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority office.

Those members present were:

Kenneth Frameli, Chairman  
Tom Goughenour, Vice Chairman  
Jamie Forman, Secretary  
Benjamin Bupka, Treasurer  
George Riecks, Asst. Sec-Treas.

Brian Sypin  
Tim Phillips  
Tom Davidson  
Joshua Forman  
Gary Mylan

Also attending were:

Christopher Simms, Solicitor  
Bob Dengler, Engineer  
Mitchell Ring Jr., Public  
Jeff Coneybeer, Customer  
Chris Piper, Customer

Bruce Howard, Lead Operator  
Sharon Confortini, Secretary  
Cathy Henderson, Customer  
Michelle Baker, Customer  
David Corbett, Customer

MINUTES

A motion approving the minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Bupka and the motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion approving the Treasurer's Report and to pay the outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Sypin and the motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Ring stated two additional individuals had approached him saying their septic system malfunctioned, as a result they had sewer backup in their basement. They are asking to be included in the sewer line extension project at Country Club Road if Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority is able to get the sewer lines in their area. Mr. Ring was inquiring if a letter from these individuals would help in getting the sewer lines on Country Club Road. Mr. Ring was advised to send Morgan Township a letter as well as give Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority a copy of the letter for their files.

Ms. Cathy Henderson (227 Second St., Mather), Ms. Michelle Baker (238 Second St., Mather), Mr. Chris Piper (236 Second St., Mather) and Mr. David Corbett (237 Second St., Mather) attended the board meeting to issue a complaint regarding water/sewage backup in their basements during the last two rain storms that produced massive rain in a very short period of time. Ms. Baker and Mr. Piper both stated they had about three feet of water and diluted sewage in their basement. Ms. Baker claimed she lost her furnace, hot water heater, washer and dryer. These customers attended the meeting to inquire as to what the Authority would do to fix this issue so it doesn't happen in the future. Mr. Frameli stated in 2011 when Mather had a similar situation the Authority's insurance company paid the homeowners for the damage they incurred but LTMJSA is unable to obtain the same kind of insurance. In 2011, after the insurance was cancelled, the Authority mailed a letter to all homeowners stating LTMJSA can no longer obtain this insurance and advised them to install a back flow preventer to prevent sewage from backing up into their home. Ms. Baker stated she didn't have a back flow preventer installed in her home because she doesn't have the \$5,000.00 to install one. Mr. Howard and Mr. Frameli explained that the sewer pipes can't handle the abundance of water when the rain comes down as fast and as heavy as it had done in the past two weeks. In addition to the rain, they explained, the homes in Mather usually get water seeping in thru the walls and floors and all that additional water contributes to the massive water going thru the pipes. This is unfortunate but there is nothing the Authority can do to prevent this from happening. The above customers were advised to install a check valve, make sure all of their lines are connected to the sewer system, and to get plugs for their drains.

## OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated he was notified that the PUC is requesting a meeting with a representative of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority to discuss the \$1,000.00 fine assessed to LTMJSA due to an incident on May 10, 2023 where the operators failed to respond to an emergency notification in a timely manner. The board decided Mr. Howard should attend the meeting but the Authority's solicitor, Mr. Simms, does not need to attend.

Mr. Howard stated he received a quote from Morgantown Roofing in the amount of \$18,200.00 to repair the roof of the Williamstown STP. Mr. Simms stated Mr. Howard would need to contact two other contractors to get additional quotes since it is over the bidding threshold for 2024. Mr. Jamie Forman made a motion authorizing Mr. Howard to have Morgantown Roofing repair the Williamstown STP roof at a cost of \$18,200.00 but only if he cannot find another contractor to repair the roof for a lower cost and for the same 10 year warranty. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Confortini distributed the draft copy of the 2023 audit that was completed by Guthrie, Belczyk & Associates, P.C. The board members will review the audit and approve it at the May 2024 board meeting.

Mrs. Confortini stated the auditors are requesting the office staff start recording their accounts utilizing the accrual system of reporting instead of the cash basis system currently being used; the cost for the training of this system is approximately \$500.00. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing Guthrie, Belczyk & Associates to teach the office staff the accrual system of accounting for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority at the estimated cost of \$500.00. Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini stated the electric contract with Energy Harbor is up for renewal December 1, 2024. Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority's energy accounts were placed up for auction and the best rates for the renewal came from Interstate Gas Supply, LLC. Mr. Goughenour made a motion committing to a two year contract from Interstate Gas Supply, LLC for the Authority's power bills at a rate of \$0.0759 kwh. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms stated he spoke to Greene County regarding the GIS Mapping. The county has no requirements as to taking ownership of the manhole data collected through PA Rural Water so the Authority can move forward with the GIS Mapping project.

Mr. Simms stated he contacted the Greene County Commissioners, PA Representative Bud Cook and Senator Camera Bartolotta regarding the possibility of obtaining grant funds for the Chartiers Hill Sewer Extension Project. Senator Camera Bartolotta did not respond; PA Representative Bud Cook's email stated the Authority should look into grants that are available; and the Greene County Commissioners would like the Authority to check with Morgan Township to see if they can give additional funds beyond the \$6,000.00 they committed towards the Act 537 Plan.

Mr. Simms stated according to Section 49-21 of Robert's Rules the Chairman of the board for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority is permitted to vote during the monthly board meetings due to the size of the board.

Mr. Simms stated Jefferson Township and East Bethlehem Township had notified him that they were in favor of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority taking over Dry Tavern Sewer Authority; Clarksville Borough is not in favor of the acquisition. The Solicitor for Jefferson Borough, Mr. Dennis Makel, sent a letter dated March 25, 2024 clarifying the position of Jefferson Borough regarding the Dry Tavern Sewer Authority merger; Jefferson Borough is requiring a public hearing notifying the users of Dry Tavern Sewer Authority of the potential acquisition. The public meeting is scheduled for the following Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm; therefore Jefferson Borough's vote is contingent on the outcome of the public meeting. In addition, Mr. Makel sent Mr. Simms a letter dated March 19, 2024 that stated "the Board of Directors of Dry Tavern Sewer Authority are requesting a proposal from Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority for the possible purchase of the authority and its assets". Mr. Simms responded to Mr. Makel in a letter dated March 22, 2024 that stated "It is the understanding of the Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority that it would be providing no monetary contribution for the acquisition" because the Chairman of the Board from Dry Tavern Sewer Authority came to LTMJSA and proposed a procedure whereby LTMJSA would acquire DTSA for "one dollar". Mr. Simms has not received a reply from Mr. Makel regarding the March 22, 2024 letter. Morgan Township still has not notified Mr. Simms as to their decision regarding this matter; the Authority needs four of the five municipalities to agree to the acquisition. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing Mr. Goughenour and Mr. Simms to attend the public meeting regarding the Dry Tavern Sewer Authority merger on Wednesday April 24, 2024 at 5:00 pm. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming has submitted the Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Reports to PaDEP for both the Mather STP and the Williamstown STP.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming is still working on the application for the Mather STP NPDES Permit renewal that is due on July 4, 2024.

Mr. Dengler stated that even though the Authority was approved for a \$500,000.00 grant from USEPA FY 2023 Community Project Funding and the board approved using the Initial TAP fees toward the cost of the Chartiers Hill Sewer Extension Project, the project is still short of funds of approximately \$134,000.00.

Mr. Dengler stated the Authority did not receive the funding from the Statewide LSA grant application in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 that was designated for the sewer rehabilitation project in Pitt Gas.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming sent the draft alternatives analysis for the proposed sewer extension projects for both the Country Club Road and the Chartiers Hill Area to Morgan Township but has not heard back from them. Mr. Howard stated he would contact Morgan Township for an update.

Mr. Dengler stated Clarksville Dollar General is ready to install the sewer line but is waiting for the highway occupancy permit. The Authority has applied for the Business Partner Registration Number from PennDOT; when that is completed the HOP application will be submitted.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming is in the process of completing the applications for the Biosolids Disposal General Permit renewals. Mr. Howard stated the Authority submitted all the samples needed to complete the application. Mr. Jamie Forman made a motion approving the submission of the permit renewal applications along with the required \$500.00 for each application. Mr. Riecks seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dengler stated that last month Gannett Fleming submitted an application to Senator Casey's and Senator Fetterman's offices requesting a \$1,340,172 grant towards an estimated \$1,675,215 project cost for the extension of sewer lines to the Country Club and Nicklaus Lane area. These funds would require a 20% (\$335,043.00) matching funds requirement. In addition, Mr. Dengler became aware of another grant program through Congressman Reschenthaler's Office which was due by April 19, 2024; since Gannett Fleming already had all the information needed to submit the application for this grant, and it wouldn't cost anything for the Authority, Mr. Dengler submitted the application before the deadline.

Mr. Dengler stated Mr. Howard advised him of flooding that took place in Burson. Mr. Dengler reviewed the sewer drawings of the area and determined that the amount of rain that took place at that time was the reason for the flooding; not the fault of the Authority.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sypin made a motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m., seconded by Mr. Jamie Forman and the motion carried unanimously.