

**LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY**

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

AUGUST 21, 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  
Cheryl Semonick, Public

Bruce Howard, Lead Operator  
Sharon Confortini, Secretary

MINUTES

A motion approving the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Sypin, seconded by Mr. Phillips 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. Joshua Forman, seconded by Mr. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.

## PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Semonick stated she owns property on Country Club Road and was shown a map of a future sewer extension project that indicates the new potential sewer line would run through her property. Mr. Frameli and Mr. Dengler assured her that the map shown to her was a very preliminary proposal and that nothing is definite at this time. The map was necessary to submit the Act 537 Plan to DEP but it doesn't necessarily mean that the final draft would have the sewer lines going through her property. Ms. Semonick claimed she will continue to attend Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority meetings to ensure they don't extend the sewer lines through her property.

## OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated he spoke with AMS Sludge Removal regarding their microbes that are supposed to remove algae from the tanks at the Williamstown STP that is clogging the lines. The cost of the microbes is \$6,000.00 per container. The container holds 250 gallons of microbes; Mr. Howard anticipates he would need to use approximately one or two gallons per day to remove the algae. AMS is saying it may take three or four containers to remove all of the algae. Mr. Howard also stated AMS Sludge Removal have trucks filled with these microbes so when it is time for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority to remove the sludge these microbes will eat the sludge without first having to take the water out of the tanks. Mr. Phillips made a motion authorizing Mr. Howard to purchase one container of the microbes from AMS Sludge Removal at a cost of \$6,000.00, after a review of the product by Mr. Dengler to ensure the chemical will not interfere with their laboratory results. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard stated after they increased the size of the sewer pipes at the Williamstown STP from six inches to eight inches to help repair the clogged lines the flow meter had to be removed. Mr. Howard received a quote of approximately \$2,600.00 to replace the old flow meter with an Ultra Sonic Flow Meter, plus the cost of installation. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing the purchase of the Ultra Sonic Flow Meter at an approximate cost of \$2,600.00 plus the cost of installation. Mr. Goughenour seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard stated they found approximately six feet of exposed sewer line in Pitt Gas located by the Swinging Bridge in Clarksville. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing NexGen Industrial Services to fix the exposed sewer line in Pitt Gas by encasing the line in concrete. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard stated the GIS Mapping should be completed in approximately three days, but PA Rural Water may need to come back in the fall, when the vegetation is gone, to locate the manholes they couldn't find. The board members agreed that Mr. Dains could continue to work after the completion of the GIS Mapping to finish the power washing of the Mather STP.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms stated he submitted a file to the Washington County Upset Sale on a customer that had not paid their Initial Tap Fee in the hopes of recovering the funds if the property is sold.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated he had not heard back from DEP regarding the Mather STP NPDES Permit renewal that was submitted on June 28, 2024.

Mr. Dengler stated although the Authority has secured a \$500,000.00 grant from USEPA FY2023 Community Project for the Chartiers Hill Sewer Extension Project, the Authority would need additional funds to complete the \$655,425.00 project. Therefore, he and David Brichetti had a Planning Consultation meeting with PennVest on August 15, 2024 to attempt to secure a grant or low interest rate loan for this project as well as the Country Club Road Extension Project. Mr. Dengler stated that based on PennVest's rating system of need in the area and median household income it appears there isn't any chance the Authority would be approved for a grant for these projects. What would help with any potential grant funding are examples of proof that the potential new customers have failing sewer systems and therefore need to tap into the Authority's sewer system. Mr. Dengler distributed a graph comparing the cost of completing these projects individually or combined using the low interest loan rate from PennVest. If the Authority only completed the Chartiers Road Extension project it would cost the Authority \$7,874.00 annually for 20 years, which wouldn't really affect the Authority's annual budget. If LTMJSA would only pursue the \$1,153,643.00 Country Club Road Extension Project it would cost the Authority \$66,035.00 annually for 20 years, which would create a \$47,935.00 deficit in the Authority's annual budget. If LTMJSA combined the two projects it would cost the Authority \$75,871.00 annually for 20 years, which would create a \$47,631.00 deficit in the annual budget. Mr. Dengler stated PennVest has a small project loan that comes from state funds which is easier to apply for but the project must be less than one million dollars. Mr. Sybin made a motion to pursue just the Chartiers Road Extension Project at this time utilizing PennVest small project funding for the additional money needed to complete the project. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dengler stated the sewer line extension for the Dollar General in Clarksville has been completed.

Mr. Dengler stated the Biosolid Disposal General Permit applications for both the Mather STP and the Williamstown STP have been submitted to DEP.

Mr. Dengler stated that although the Authority does not have any pending state grant applications for any of their sewer extension projects there is a pending federal grant application under the FY 2025 Appropriations Requests at Senator Casey's and Senator Fetterman's Offices. The amount requested is \$1,340,172.00 towards an estimated \$1,675,215.00 project cost; however there is a 20% (\$335,043.00) matching funds requirement.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Joshua Forman stated he had received a few complaints from customers who were afraid to get out of their vehicles because of the coyote decoy the office staff purchased to get rid of the geese that were gathering in the parking lot of the Mather STP.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sypin made a motion to adjourn at 5:43 p.m., seconded by Mr. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.