

LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

FEBRUARY 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

Brian Sypin
Gary Mylan
Tom Davidson
Joshua Forman

Also attending were:

Christopher Simms, Solicitor
Bob Dengler, Engineer

Bruce Howard, Lead Operator
Sharon Confortini, Secretary

MINUTES

A motion approving the minutes of the January 17, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Goughenbour, seconded by Mr. Mylan and the motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A motion approving the Treasurer's Report and to pay the outstanding invoices was made by Mr. Davidson, seconded by Mr. Joshua Forman and the motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated that he and Mr. Brichetti would need help this summer with mowing the grass, weed wacking, and painting, along with other small projects, beginning sometime in May or June 2024. Mr. Howard requested permission to hire Mr. Roy Dains as a part time temporary employee for the summer to help with these small jobs, especially if the Authority decides to purchase the Dry Tavern Sewer Authority. Mr. Simms stated the Authority doesn't need to advertise for this temporary part-time position. Mr. Bupka made a motion authorizing Mr. Dains to be hired as a part-time temporary employee for the summer at a rate stated in the union contract. Mr. Mylan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

Mr. Howard stated he received a quote from PA Rural Water in the amount of \$9,675.00 for GIS Mapping of the locations of the Authority's manholes. Mr. Emery, from PA Rural Water, had relayed to office staff that the cost of the mapping would be reimbursed by Greene County. Mr. Howard stated he would contact the county to verify the accuracy of the reimbursement claim. Mr. Simms stated if the Authority agrees to participate with this project then an agreement should be signed that states if the County no longer wants to continue with the mapping then Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority would take possession of the data. This discussion was tabled until the March 2024 board meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Confortini distributed the annual Water Consumption Report for the year 2023. Mr. Goughenour made a motion authorizing the changes to the EDUs for 2024 on the eight (8) business accounts that are subject to annual review. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

Mrs. Confortini stated she prepared the Annual Obligor's Compliance Certificate to US Bank for the Authority's bonds. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing Mr. Frameli to sign the Obligor's Compliance Certificate for the Authority. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

Mrs. Confortini stated when the Authority refinanced their Phase I loan with bonds from US Bank the Authority paid Digital Assurance Certification LLC \$5,000.00 to help the office staff with the government reporting required for these bonds. The \$5,000.00 paid was for a three year period and the three years ended in 2024. Digital Assurance Certification LLC gave the Authority two options to continue with their assistance, either pay \$5,000.00 for another three year period or pay an annual fee of \$1,500.00 due by

February 1st of each year. Mr. Bupka made a motion authorizing the \$1,500.00 automatic renewal to Digital Assurance Certification LLC payable before February 1st of each year. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms stated the deed for the Clarksville Dollar General had been recorded, therefore the Developers Agreement can be signed. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing Mr. Frameli to sign the Developers Agreement between Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority and Dollar General. Mr. Mylan seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated he is working with Mr. Howard and Mrs. Confortini to complete the Annual Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Report which is due by the end of March 2024.

Mr. Dengler stated the Mather STP NPDES Permit is expiring by the end of 2024 and the application for renewal is due to DEP by July 4, 2024. Mr. Dengler provided Mr. Howard with a list of the analytical samples that will be needed for the permit application.

Mr. Dengler stated he has nothing new to report regarding the \$500,000.00 grant the Authority has secured under the USEPA FY 2023 Community Project Funding Grant but assured the board there is no deadline for when this grant must be used.

Mr. Dengler stated the Commonwealth Financing Authority will meet in March and hopefully review the grant applications that were submitted for their Statewide LSA grant program. Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority has submitted a \$1,000,000.00 grant application for the Pitt Gas sewer rehabilitation project.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming has completed the Act 537 Planning Module that includes the Chartiers Road Extension Project and the Country Club Road Extension Project. The Planning Module draft includes four options (two options for the Chartiers Road Extension Project and two options for the Country Club Extension Project).

-Option 1A for Country Club Extension Project would serve the area by gravity, therefore a few residences included in the extension project would need a grinder pump and the Authority would need to build a Gravity Sewer & Pump Station between Country Club Road and the Country Club along Route 221. The estimated cost of Option 1 for Country Club Extension Project is \$1,675,215.00.

-Option 1B for Country Club Extension Project is a Pressure Sewer System. With this Pressure Sewer System each individual home would be required to have their own grinder pump. Because smaller pipes can be used for this system the overall cost of this project is cheaper, at an estimated cost of \$1,153,642.50.

-Option 2A for Chartiers Road Extension Project is basically running the new sewer lines up Chartiers Road behind the homes using the Gravity Sewer System. The estimate for this project would be approximately \$655,425.00.

-Option 2B for Chartiers Road Extension Project would be the Pressure Sewer System where each home would need to install a grinder pump. The estimated cost of this project would be \$610,976.25.

Mr. Dengler stated the Pressure Sewer System has a cheaper set up cost for the Authority but a decision would have to be made on who would maintain the grinder pumps at each of these residences, the Authority or the individual home owners. In contrast there isn't much maintenance needed to maintain a Gravity Sewer System. Mr. Dengler reminded the board the Authority already has the \$500,000.00 grant available for the Chartiers Road Extension Project and is continuing to research various government agencies for additional grant funds. Mr. Dengler stated he will finalize the Act 537 Planning Module and present it to Morgan Township for their signature before submitting to DEP. Mr. Simms stated he would contact Greene County Commissioners Betsy McClure and Jared Edgreen along with PA State Representative Bud Cook to inquire about additional funding for these projects.

Mr. Dengler stated he received revised drawings from the engineer for the Dollar General being built in Clarksville PA. Because they are extending the sewer line along the highway road, the Authority would have to obtain a Highway Occupancy Permit on behalf of Dollar General. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing Gannett Fleming to submit the Highway Occupancy Permit and to obtain a highway maintenance bond. As stated in the Developers Agreement Dollar General will incur the cost of these charges. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.

Mr. Dengler stated he reviewed the updated documentation from Dry Tavern Sewer Authority to determine if it would be feasible for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority to purchase that Authority for \$1.00. Mr. Dengler used Dry Tavern Sewer Authority's Annual Engineer Report Fiscal Year ending December 31, 2022, their Operating Budget Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2023, their Wasteload Management Report Operating Year 2022 and the preliminary draft on their Audit Report for years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 to determine the feasibility of this purchase. Mr. Dengler stated he did not perform a site visit for the current report but just used the information from the site visit on April 6, 2022. Mr. Dengler did note a small risk in this purchase. According to the Chapter 94 Annual Wasteload Management Report for the Operating Year 2022 the plant was not hydraulically or organically overloaded in 2022, however, the plant is projected to be organically overloaded during the next five years based on the projected organic maximum average loading. The projected overload is only 5 pounds per day, however, once PaDEP determines a plant is overloaded they will request a Corrective Action Plan be implemented to address the issue. The Corrective Action Plan may consist of a rerating study to determine if the plant is designed to handle the increase. If the rerating of the plant

does not solve the issue then the Authority may have to increase the size of the plant. In addition, Mr. Dengler reminded the board Dry Tavern Sewer Authority would also need to increase their sludge holding capacity because their sludge holding tank is very small. This expenditure has been on their annual report for the past few years. Dry Tavern Sewer Authority also needs an Emergency Power Generator at the STP along with a replacement of the Raw Sewage Pump.

After reviewing Dry Tavern's financial documentation it appears that if Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority can handle the extra work from the additional customers and the additional plant without hiring additional full time staff then the merger should be feasible. However, if an additional full time employee would be required to handle the additional workload then the merger would not be cost effective. At this time Mr. Howard feels an additional full time employee would not be needed as long as they can hire a part time temporary summer employee to help with the grass mowing, weed wacking, etc. If Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority purchases Dry Tavern Sewer Authority the customers for Dry Tavern would see their monthly sewer bills increase from \$60.00 a month to \$65.00 a month, to be consistent with the rate currently charged by Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority. Mr. Simms stated that before Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority can purchase Dry Tavern Sewer Authority four of the five municipalities governing Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority would need to agree to the purchase. Mr. Goughenour made a motion agreeing to the purchase of Dry Tavern Sewer Authority for \$1.00 and for Mr. Simms to write preliminary letters of interest to each of the municipalities to determine if there are enough votes to move forward with the purchase. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote and Mr. Mylan who feels the public should have an input in the decision.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Sypin made a motion to adjourn at 6:07 p.m., seconded by Mr. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously, excluding the Chairman of the Board who is ineligible to vote.