

LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

February 19, 2025

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 (via telephone)

Jamie Forman, Secretary

Benjamin Bupka, Treasurer

George Riecks, Asst. Sec-Treas.

Brian Sypin

Gary Mylan

Tom Davidson

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 15, 2025 board meeting and organization meeting was made by Mr. Jamie Forman, seconded by Mr. Riecks 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. Sypin, seconded by Mr. Jamie Forman and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated he would like permission to change the laboratory that tests the Authority's samples from H&H Water Control to CWM Environmental. Mr. Howard stated H&H Water Control has become consistently late in providing Mr. Howard with the required lab results which then delays his reports to DEP. In addition CWM Environmental is a little cheaper than H&H Water Control and will come to the plant to pick up the samples. Mr. Mylan made a motion permitting Mr. Howard to use CWM Environmental instead of H&H Water Controls to test the Authority's samples. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard distributed a quote from Fox Ford in the amount of \$55,447.90 for a new company truck. The quote was only for the cab and chassis, but does not reflect the Fox Ford discount. In addition Mr. Howard distributed a quote from Fox Ford in the amount of \$46,975.00 for a new bed and crane for this new truck. The board asked Mr. Howard to shop around for additional quotes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Confortini stated the auditors would like clarification on the Authority's late penalty policy. The current late penalty policy states a customer will incur a 10% penalty on the charges that accrue in that current month. The auditors feel the Authority should charge the customer a 10% late penalty on the balance in the account on the day penalties are applied even if the account includes prior charges that have already incurred late fees in the past. The board decided to maintain the existing late penalty policy of a 10% late penalty on only the charges that were incurred in the current month.

Mrs. Confortini stated she received an email from US Bank, which holds the Authority's bonds. US Bank is notifying the Authority that Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority would need to complete an Arbitrage Certificate every five years; this is an IRS Requirement that verifies the Authority is not earning more interest from the bonds than is permissible. The Authority is required to hire a rebate analyst. US Bank provided Mrs. Confortini with a rebate analyst who charges between \$2,500.00 and \$3,500.00 to complete the required certificate. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing PFM Assess Management to calculate the rebate for the Authority to remain in compliance with the IRS. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini distributed the annual Water Consumption Report for the year 2024. Mr. Sypin made a motion authorizing the changes to the EDUs for 2025 on the eight (8) business accounts that are subject to annual review. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini asked the board to approve an increase in the credit limit for the office staff's company credit card from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing the office staff credit card limit to increase to \$2,000.00. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini stated she received an estimate in the amount of \$5,300.00 for three new computers, which includes installation. Mr. Davidson made a motion authorizing the purchase of three new computers with an estimated cost of \$5,300.00. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms presented an agreement he drew up between Mr. Faddis, owner of the Company Store Properties LLC, and Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority which states Mr. Faddis will keep the Authority notified of the number of renters in his eleven (11) apartment property located in Mather PA; however if the Authority determines at any time that Mr. Faddis is not relaying the proper number of rented apartments the Authority will start charging Mr. Faddis eleven (11) EDUs on the next available billing cycle and then thereafter. The original verbal agreement was agreed upon at the October 18, 2023 board meeting and now that Mr. Faddis is selling the apartment building Mr. Simms recommends a written agreement should be on file for all future owners. Mr. Davidson made a motion approving the signing of Resolution #1 Approving Petition for Approval of Consent Order with Company Store Properties or alternately increase EDUs to eleven (11) EDUs if agreement not signed by owner(s). Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated the application for the Mather STP NPDES Permit renewal, which was submitted to PaDEP on June 28, 2024, is still in review at DEP.

Mr. Dengler stated there are no changes on the statuses of the grant applications that were submitted on behalf of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority.

1. The Authority still has the \$500,000.00 grant approved through USEPA FY 2023 Community Project Funding Program for the Chartiers Hill Sewer Extension Project.
2. Mr. Dengler is still waiting for the results of the \$1,000,000.00 grant application from The Statewide LSA Grant application submitted in November 2024 for the Country Club Road Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Dengler heard the decision may take place in September 2025.
3. Mr. Dengler is still waiting for the results of the \$1,340,172.00 grant application from Senator Casey's and Fetterman's Offices and from Congressman Reschenthaler's office for the Country Club Sewer Extension Project.

Mr. Dengler stated the Act 537 Planning Module to extend sewer lines on Chartiers Hill Road and Country Club Road is ready for approval and ready to advertise for a 30 day public comment period. Mr. Davidson made a motion to approve the Act 537 Planning Module and to advertise for a 30 day public comment period. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming has begun working on the Authority's Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Reports due to PaDEP on March 31, 2025.

Mr. Dengler stated there is another grant opportunity from the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Program. They are accepting applications until April 30, 2025. The grant is for projects with a cost between \$30,000.00 and \$500,000.00, with a 15% matching funds requirement. Mr. Jamie Forman made a motion approving the preparation of the grant application for a sewer extension project on Route 221 towards the Greene County Country Club. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Jamie Forman stated the concrete around a manhole on the side of the road of Monongahela Street in Jefferson PA had sunk about one foot where Mr. Teegarden had run a new sewer pipe. Mr. Howard stated he would talk to Mark Teegarden and Jefferson Borough to see what can be done to fix the problem.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Jamie Forman made a motion to adjourn at 5:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.