

LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

March 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

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 February 19, 2025 meeting was made by Mr. Goughenour, 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. Goughenour, seconded by Mr. Sypin and the motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

None

OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard presented a quote from Fox Ford for \$75,975.00 for a new Ford truck. The quote was listed as follows; \$55,950.00 for a 2025 Ford F-350 Super Cab, \$19,625.00 truck bed without a crane, and \$400.00 for licenses and fees. The board recommended Mr. Howard get a few more quotes before they make their final decision.

Mr. Howard stated the operators are hoping to be able to keep the old truck for the summer help; the old truck has a crane and snowplow that can be used as a backup if they purchase a new truck without a crane or snowplow.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Confortini advised the board that the United States Postal Service lost the February batch of 1346 bills that the office mailed out on February 26, 2025. The office staff has made numerous phone calls and visits to the post office but they said they have no idea where these bills are or why they weren't delivered. Mrs. Confortini opened a dispute with the Consumer Relations Department of the Post Office regarding this issue along with the process of how to get a refund on the cost of this delivery. Mr. Sypin made a motion permitting the office staff to waive late fees to the sewage bills due for payment by March 20, 2025. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini stated Mark Strayer, Authority's IT support, is offering to add extra security to each of our new computers at a cost of \$15.00 per computer per month, which would be approximately \$540.00 a year. This extra security would give him notification alerts for anything that is not normal, thus a security risk, and will automatically shut down the computer. The extra security would run on the computer 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing the purchase of this extra protection if the security company pays for any monetary loss Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority suffers if the extra security fails to stop a cyber-attack. Mr. Goughenour seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms stated the Mather Company Store Property agreement has been signed by all parties and is finally completed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated he has still not heard anything from PaDEP regarding the renewal of the Mather STP NPDES submitted for approval on June 28, 2024.

Mr. Dengler updated the board on the statuses of the grant applications 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 might take place in September 2025.
3. Mr. Dengler stated it appears the Authority was not awarded the \$1,340,172.00 grant from Senator Casey's and Fetterman's Offices and from Congressman Reschenthaler's office for the Country Club Sewer Extension Project from the 2025 Appropriations Funding. Mr. Dengler will continue to watch for any grant opportunities in the 2026 Appropriations Funding.

Mr. Dengler stated the advertisement of the 30 day public comment period for the Act 537 Planning Module to extend sewer lines on Chartiers Hill Road and Country Club Road was in the March 11, 2025 Observer-Reporter. After April 11, 2025, Morgan Township Supervisors would need to pass a resolution accepting the Act 537 Planning Module before sending to PaDEP for approval.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming has completed the drafts of the Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Reports. Mr. Riecks made a motion approving the submission of the Chapter 94 Wasteload Management Report to PaDEP. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming finalized the cost estimate for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority to extend sewer service to the Greene County Country Club. Gannett Fleming estimates it will cost approximately \$200,000.00 - \$250,000.00 for the extension. Mr. Riecks made a motion approving the signing of a Resolution to apply for a grant from the PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Program as well as signing the matching funds letter and ownership letter that must be submitted for this grant. The grant requires a 15% matching funds requirement. Mr. Bupka seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Goughenour stated he was with Mr. Howard and Mr. Brichetti in January when Mather received a heavy rainstorm and he witnessed the rainwater pouring out of the manhole at the end of Second Street in Mather, PA. They pulled some manholes and it appeared the sewer line coming down First Street in Mather was overloaded with storm water, which may be causing the backups in the basements. The board stated they would consider purchasing check valves, along with the materials needed, for those homes affected by heavy rainstorms if Morgan Township would pay for the cost of installing the check valves and the customers would maintain the check valves. Mr. Howard stated he would approach the Morgan Township Supervisors with the suggestion before the next board meeting.

Mr. Davidson arrived at approximately 5:26 pm.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Howard asked the board if the Authority could hire Roy Dains, as a temporary employee, to clear all the Right of Ways. Mr. Mylan made a motion authorizing Mr. Dains to work for the Authority as a Temporary Employee, at the current rate, up to \$5,000.00. Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

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