

LOWER TEN MILE JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

144 CHARTIERS ROAD

JEFFERSON, PA 15344

724-883-2743

MINUTES

MAY 15, 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
George Riecks, Asst. Sec-Treas.
Gary Mylan

Brian Sypin
Tim Phillips
Tom Davidson
Joshua Forman

Also attending were:

Christopher Simms, Solicitor
Bob Dengler, Engineer
Eva Zorich, Public
Mitch Ring, Public

Bruce Howard, Lead Operator
Sharon Confortini, Secretary
Mark Teegarden, Customer
John Pecjak, Public

MINUTES

A motion approving the minutes of the April 17, 2024 meeting was made by Mr. Phillips, 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. Davidson and the motion carried unanimously.

OPERATION'S REPORT

Mr. Howard stated he jetted several sewer lines in Mather in response to customer complaints from the April 17, 2024 board meeting. Mr. Howard reported there were no problems with LTMJSA's sewer lines; everything was flowing well. Mr. Dengler received a quote of approximately \$50,000.00 from Drnach Environmental to install and operate flow meters in the area in question for six months to determine where the extra water flow is coming from during heavy rains. Mr. Goughenour made a motion authorizing Mr. Howard to use cameras in the sewer lines along the bottom of First Street, Second Street, Third Street, and Short Street to determine if any of the lines are obstructed or have leaks, as long as the cost does not exceed \$10,000.00. Mr. Davidson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Howard stated he was able to get the fine from PUC lowered from \$1,000.00 to \$500.00 for the failure to respond to an emergency notification as soon as practicable following notification on May 10, 2023.

Mr. Howard stated he had to get Thralls Contracting to clean out a manhole in the Williamstown area that someone had filled with rocks and logs.

Mr. Howard stated the Authority had approved Morgantown Roofing to repair the roof at the Williamstown STP at the April 17, 2024 board meeting in the amount of \$18,200.00. Morgantown Roofing is requesting an initial down payment of \$11,000.00 before they start the repairs. Mr. Goughenour made a motion authorizing the initial payment to Morgantown Roofing in the amount of \$11,000.00. Mr. Jamie Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Ms. Eva Zorich, 248 Country Club Road Waynesburg PA, stated she would like to connect to the sewer lines located across the street at the Jefferson Estates. Mr. Howard stated those sewer lines are privately held by Jefferson Estates. Ms. Zorich stated she received a letter from Jefferson Estates permitting her to tap into their lines. Mr. Howard told Ms. Zorich he would recommend she get an easement with Jefferson Estates and a permit from the township to cross the road. Since the sewer line at Jefferson Estates is a private line the Authority would have nothing to do with the installation of the line. However, Ms. Zorich would need to pay the Authority \$1,750.00 for tapping into the sewer system and a \$50.00 inspection fee; both of these charges would need paid before the Authority would provide the necessary permit and specs for the project.

Mr. Mark Teegarden, 139 Monongahela St Jefferson PA, stated he wants to build a home at 138 Monongahela St Jefferson PA and would like to tap into the existing sewer line that runs on the property. Mr. Teegarden already has an additional TAP fee paid for the property. Mr. Howard stated Mr. Teegarden would need to get an easement for the property and will have to pay a \$50.00 inspection fee to the Authority to get the permit and specs. In addition, Mr. Teegarden would need to find out if the sewer line is a six inch line or a four inch line to make sure the line can handle the additional flow from another residence.

Mr. Ring and Mr. Pecjak attended the board meeting to inquire of the status of the Country Club Road Extension Project; they were told Morgan Township had provided the Authority with the \$6,000.00 check for the Act 537 Planning Module completed by Gannett Fleming. Mrs. Confortini stated she had not received the \$6,000.00 check as of this date. Mr. Dengler stated the draft alternatives analysis had been sent to Morgan Township for review and comments. Once Morgan Township responds to the analysis then the Act 537 Planning Module would need to be sent to DEP for approval. However, Mr. Frameli stated Mr. Dengler is not to continue with the Act 537 Planning Module until Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority receives the \$6,000.00 from Morgan Township.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Sypin made a motion accepting the 2023 Audit. Mr. Joshua Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini stated Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority's Certificate of Deposit with First National Bank will mature May 20, 2024. Mr. Phillips made a motion to renew the Certificate of Deposit with First National Bank for another six month period at a rate of 5.00% APY. Mr. Sypin seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Confortini stated the lease on the Lanier copier in the office will be up for renewal on August 1, 2024. Ford Business gave two quotes for the new copier. Option #1 would be to lease a new copier at a rate of \$172.77 a month for the lease (an increase of \$62.48/month from the current rate) plus a maintenance fee of \$420.00/year (a decrease of \$212.49/year). Option #2 would be to purchase the new copier in the amount of \$8,232.33 (before taxes) plus the maintenance fee of \$420.00/year. Mr. Goughenour stated he would like to research an option to buy a new copier without going through Ford Business Machines so the matter was tabled until the June 2024 board meeting.

LEGAL REPORT

Mr. Simms stated Jefferson Township had a public meeting regarding the acquisition of Dry Tavern Sewer Authority. Mr. Simms received a letter from Morgan Township stating they were not in support of Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority acquiring Dry Tavern Sewer Authority. According to the Municipal Authorities Act Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority would need four of the five municipalities to approve the merger. Therefore since Morgan Township and Clarksville Borough are against the acquisition Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority cannot pursue this endeavor. Mr. Simms also stated under Section 56-22 of the Municipal Authority Act Jefferson Township can pursue the acquisition of Dry Tavern Sewer Authority; then Jefferson Township could enter into an agreement with Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority.

Mr. Simms stated Greene County has agreed to reimburse Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority the \$8,400.00 cost of the GIS Mapping if the Authority decides to pursue the GIS Mapping of their manholes thru PA Rural Water. However Greene County will not reimburse the Authority for the annual \$1,320.00 cost of the ArcGIS Licensing that is required to maintain the data. Mr. Goughenour made a motion for Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority to begin the process of the GIS Mapping with PA Rural Water, with the understanding Greene County will reimburse the \$8,400.00 charges. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Phillips made a motion authorizing the annual cost of \$1,320.00 for the ArcGIS Licensing. Mr. Joshua Forman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Howard will contact PA Rural Water to set up the schedule to start locating the manholes; Mr. Dengler will send PA Rural Water the most current maps that may have some of the manholes already located.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming is working on the Mather STP NPDES Permit renewal that is due by July 4, 2024. Mr. Howard provided Mr. Dengler with the last two effluent analyses needed to complete the renewal application so it will be submitted before the July 4, 2024 deadline.

Mr. Dengler has nothing new to report regarding the \$500,000.00 USEPA FY 2023 Community Project Grant the Authority had received for the Chartiers Hill Sewer Extension Project.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming submitted the PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit for the sewer extension at the new Dollar General being built in Clarksville and he expects to hear back from them soon.

Mr. Dengler stated he is waiting on some sludge sampling results then he can submit the applications for the Biosolids Disposal General Permit renewal to DEP.

Mr. Dengler stated Gannett Fleming submitted an application for funding for the Country Club Sewer Extension Project in the amount of \$1,340,172 from Senator Casey and Senator Fetterman's offices for an estimated project total of \$1,675,215. There is a 20% (\$335,043.00) matching requirement that the Authority would need to get from another source. Mr. Dengler stated he was able to submit another application for funds from Congressman Reschenthaler's Office. Mr. Dengler stated these applications are usually reviewed in the fall of each year but since it is an election year the Authority may not hear if they were awarded these funds until next year.

Mr. Goughenour stated he feels the Authority should look into the possibility of getting a PennVest loan to pay for the \$135,000.00 that the Authority still needs for the Chartiers Road Extension Project because if Lower Ten Mile Joint Sewer Authority waits for another grant the total of the project may double in price. Mr. Dengler stated if the Authority wants to pursue this loan they must first set up a meeting with PennVest; there is a possibility that PennVest would be willing to combine the Chartiers Road Extension Project with the Country Club Project. Mr. Goughenour suggested the Authority could surcharge the customers effected by the project(s) to cover the cost of the PennVest loan. Mr. Sypin made a motion authorizing Mr. Dengler to meet with PennVest to inquire about a loan for the Chartiers Road Extension Project and possibly the Country Club Road Extension Project. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dengler stated he reviewed the sewer drawings for the Burson Area in response to the flooding that occurred in April 2024. According to Mr. Dengler the flooding is the result of heavy rain that came with the storm; more water than any sewer system could handle. Mr. Dengler feels the extra water is coming through leaky basements and not from the sewer system. Mr. Dengler stated an option for the Authority would be to smoke test the system to see where the extra water is coming from or to start a "Point of Sale Dye Testing". Morgan Township would need to pass an ordinance before the Point of Sale Dye Testing requirement can be enforced.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Howard asked the board if Roy Dains can work two eight hour days and one four hour day per week (getting paid for lunch on the two eight hour days) instead of the five four hour days per week. The board stated Mr. Howard can have Mr. Dains work whatever schedule Mr. Howard needs him to work.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Goughenour made a motion to adjourn at 6:01 p.m., seconded by Mr. Jamie Forman and the motion carried unanimously.