

MINUTES OF THE EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY

October 19, 2020

- ❖ The regular monthly meeting of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority was held at 6:00 pm via Zoom video conference on Monday, October 19, 2020.
- ❖ The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Lammi, who ordered the roll to be called at 6:00 p.m. Members in attendance via Zoom video conference.

#	Member	Municipality	Term Expires	Present	Absent	Time entered
1	Robert Blanchfield	Palmer Township	12/31/2020		X	*
2	Tim Weis	Forks Township	12/31/2019	X		6:09 PM
3	John Van Arman	City of Easton	12/31/2024	X		*
4	Dave Hopkins Vice-Chairman	City of Easton	12/31/2022	X		*
5	Paul James	West Easton Borough	12/31/2024	X		*
6	Robert Lammi Chairman	Palmer Township	12/31/2024	X		*
7	Joseph Mauro	City of Easton	12/31/2020	X		*
8	James McGowan Treasurer	Wilson Borough	12/31/2024	X		*
9	Charles Peterson	City of Easton	12/31/2023		X	*
10	Steven Riegel	Tatamy Borough	12/31/2024	X		*
11	Robert Werner	City of Easton	12/31/2020	X		*

* Beginning of meeting

** adjournment of meeting

❖ **The following personnel were in attendance via Zoom:**

Mr. Michael Gaul (Solicitor), Mr. Jeff Morgan, (SC Engineers), Ms. Alex Hoffman, (IPP Manager/Assistant Operations Manager of WWTP), Mr. John Schimmel, (Accountant), and Mr. Chuck Wilson, (Operations Manager of WWTP).

A motion by Mr. McGowan, seconded by Mr. Riegel to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2020 regular meeting, was passed by a voice vote (8-0). Mr. Weis was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Motion Carried

- ❖ **Courtesy of the floor:** None

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Gaul reported that he had nothing to report during the regular meeting and will be giving his report during the Authority's Executive Session.

ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Mr. Schimmel reported that there will be another revision to the budget.

A motion by Mr. McGowan, seconded by Mr. James for approval of the October 2020 bills, all in favor by voice vote, (8-0). Mr. Weis was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Motion Carried 2020-10-19 A

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Morgan had the following items for board approval;

Mr. Morgan reported that the Engineering Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Board last month have all discussed the five-year capital project plan. Mr. Morgan stated that there are a list of items to be paid for out the capital line items and another list of projects to be financed. One of those projects is the combined heat and power and FOG receiving and pretreatment facility project that must be finance since accepting the Clean Energy Grant. Since the Authority is going out to borrow money for this project, the Authority discussed going out for a few other projects. The largest of those projects being the fine screens at the headworks, the new administration and lab building, and the force main replacement at the Second Street Pump Station.

The summary memo in the Board Packet included the capital plan, the cost associated with financing, and additional debt services that would be incurred for financing an additional 10 million dollars in projects. Mr. Morgan stated that the intent is to receive approval of the capital plan and approval for the financial consultant to begin working on a bond issue for the 10 million dollars.

Mr. Morgan stated that the budget revision to be made by Mr. Schimmel is to adjust the overestimate of Stockertown's operating charge. They will only be using the interceptor and treatment plant for about six months.

The 2021 budget will be approved at the November Board Meeting after revisions are made and final budget is presented to the Board.

A motion by Mr. Hopkins, seconded by Mr. Werner for approval of the Authority's five-year capital plan, all in favor by voice vote, (9-0).

Motion Carried 2020-10-19 B

❖ **ITEM 10-01-2020 Financing for the WWTP FOG Receiving/Pre-Treatment Facility and Combined Heat and Power System Project and Other Capital Projects**

Mr. Morgan stated that in the packet there is a memo and financial information regarding the potential borrowing of approximately 10 million dollars or 4.3 million dollars; the Authority was looking into two different options at this time. The interest rates are at record lows for the borrowing, so the Authority discussed borrowing money for additional critical projects at this time.

A motion by Mr. Van Arman, seconded by Mr. Weis for approval of financing for the WWTP FOG receiving/Pre-Treatment facility and combined heat and power system project and other capital projects in the amount of a 10 million dollar bond issue, all in favor by voice vote, (9-0).

Motion Carried 2020-10-19 C

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Wilson reported that the plant is running very well again. The problems that occurred in September affected the TSS and Ammonia. Bacteria was brought in and was the cure to the problem. Indicators point to inert solids being the cause of the plant issues. Mr. Wilson reported that a new pump was purchased for the Jefferson Street pump station, and a flow meter was added to the Digester 1 recirculation line.

PRETREATMENT REPORT

Ms. Hoffman reported that this past month she has been working on permits and renewals. Ms. Hoffman stated that she is currently working on two categorical permits one for Victaulic Commerce Park and the other for Straight Arrow.

❖ **New Business**: None

❖ **Old Business**: None

❖ **Unfinished Business**: The 16-inch line repair at the Second Street Pump Station was completed on October 9, 2020. The Authority asked BCM for a proposal for the design for the new force main that will be directionally drilled under the river. In the metering vault at Canal Park two pin holes were discovered, both were repaired with clamps on the same 16-inch line.

❖ **Executive Session:**

The Board went into Executive Session on a motion by Mr. Riegel and seconded by Mr. Mauro at 6:45 pm. All in favor. Motion Carried.

❖ **Return to Public Session:**

The Board returned to Public Session following the Executive Session and on a motion by Mr. James and seconded by Mr. Riegel to introduce the following motion:

Motion to approve a settlement of the Authority's claim against Kressler, Wolff & Miller, and its insurance carrier, in the amount of \$9,867.80, and to authorize the Chairman to execute a settlement agreement, release and indemnification, in a form satisfactory to the Solicitor. The motion passed on a voice vote (8-1).

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Weis and seconded by Mr. Hopkins at 7:39 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alexandria Hoffman-EAJSA Corresponding Secretary/IPP Manager