

**MINUTES OF THE  
EASTON AREA JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY BOARD  
July 18, 2022, Meeting**

- ❖ The regular monthly meeting of the Easton Area Joint Sewer Authority Board was held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2022, at the Palmer Library, 1 Weller Place, Easton, Pennsylvania 18045, with Zoom Meeting option. The meeting was open to the public.
- ❖ The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Robert Lammi. Mr. Lammi ordered the roll to be called at 6:00 p.m. Board Members were in attendance in-person and via video conference option. Board members present at the call to order were as follows:

#	Member	Municipality	Term Expires	Present	Absent	Time Entered
1	Robert Blanchfield	Palmer Township	12/31/2025	X		*
2	Luis Campos	City of Easton	12/31/2025	X		*
3	David Hopkins Vice-Chairman	City of Easton	12/31/2022	X		*
4	Paul James	West Easton Borough	12/31/2024	X		*
5	Robert Lammi Chairman	Palmer Township	12/31/2024	X		*
6	Joseph Mauro Jr	City of Easton	12/31/2025	X		*
7	James McGowan Treasurer	Wilson Borough	12/31/2024	X		6:12 p.m.
8	Stephen Riegel	Tatamy Borough	12/31/2024	X		*
9	John Van Arman	City of Easton	12/31/2024	X		6:07 p.m.
10	Robert Werner	City of Easton	12/31/2025	X		*

\*Beginning of Meeting

\*\*Adjournment of Meeting

Members attending via Zoom Meeting could hear each other meeting attendee and be heard by each other attendee.

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

Michael Gaul (Solicitor), Rich Campbell (Attorney), Jeff Morgan (SC Engineers), John Schimmel (Accountant), Alexandria Hoffman (IPP Manager/Assistant Operations Manager of WWTP), and Erin Lane (EAJSA Recording Secretary/Office Manager of WWTP). Wilson Engineer Service: Michael Stahly and Patrick Martin for presentation on the potential Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project.

❖ **Agenda and any Amendment Approval:**

A motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, and seconded by Mr. Werner, to approve the posted agenda without amendments. **Motion Carried (8-0).**

❖ **Minutes Approval:**

A motion was made by Mr. Riegel, and seconded by Mr. Campos, to approve the minutes of June 20, 2022, regular meeting as prepared. **Motion Carried (8-0).**

❖ **Courtesy of the floor:**

Ms. Hoffman confirmed that the Authority had not received any correspondence through phone, email, or mail for public comment at the meeting. No members of the public attended the meeting.

John Van Arman entered the meeting at 6:07 p.m.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Michael Gaul, EAJSA Solicitor, asked Rich Campbell to attend the meeting as he will be the point of contact while Atty Gaul is away. Atty Gaul stated Weyerbacher Brewing Company has filed Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. Prior to the meeting, he circulated a memo to the Board regarding the status of the bankruptcy. He will discuss the matter further with the Board in the Executive Session.

### **ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT**

Mr. John Schimmel, EAJSA Accountant, stated the auditor's report needs approval.

The 2021 Financial Statements and Audit has an adjustment on page 27: Expenditures, Solicitor Services Budgeted Amounts \$70,000 with a Positive Variance \$10,662, and Contingency Costs Budgeted Amounts \$70,000 with a Positive Variance \$70,000. This change does not impact Total Expenditures or any details surrounding the Report. Mr. Schimmel will request Mr. Fleming to correct these line items within the report.

A motion was made by Mr. Blanchfield, and seconded by Mr. Riegel, to approve the 2021 Financial Statements and Audit with the correction. **Motion Carried (9-0).**

A motion was made by Mr. Werner, and seconded by Mr. Blanchfield, to authorize the 2021 Financial Statements and Audit be sent to DCED, advertised in the newspaper, and sent to the six (6) municipality members. **Motion Carried (9-0).**

Mr. Morgan stated a drawdown schedule was created and will be sent to Mr. Schimmel to be disseminated to Fulton Bank for investing the money in the accounts.

A motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, and seconded by Mr. Riegel, to approve Bond Funds Requisitions 21-C2022-07, in the total amount of \$220,455.61, in accordance with the Authority Engineer's reports. **Motion Carried 21-C2022-07 A (9-0).**

A motion was made by Mr. Werner, and seconded by Mr. Mauro, to approve the July 2022 bills. **Motion Carried (9-0).**

James McGowan entered the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

### **ENGINEERING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Morgan introduced Wilson Engineering Services, Michael Stahly and Patrick Martin, who will present on the potential for a RNG project. The history for this stems from the FOG Receiving, Digester Mixing and Combined Heat and Power project at WWTP. The project has brought about the potential to create RNG that could be discharged into UGI distribution system. The City of Easton is working on a local Climate Action Plan with Wilson Engineering Services, through a grant with DEP and this has brought about the suggestion to have Wilson Engineering present on the basic elements of the RNG project. Based on this information, a proposal for UGI to complete a Phase 1 Study to continue the investigation of the project for RNG at WWTP would be reviewed for approval.

The Board decided to hold off on approving the UGI Phase 1 Engineering Services Proposal for Potential RNG until further discussion and research is completed. Mr. Morgan will ask the grant source of the Alternative Clean Energy (ACE) grant whether these funds can be reallocated to this project.

Attorney Gaul also cautioned that, if the Authority desired to use bond funds for the project, the Authority would need to consult with bond counsel whether that was permissible under the rules for tax exempt bonds, particularly if infrastructure was to be built by the Authority and then dedicated to UGI, which is a private entity.

#### **PRETREATMENT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Lammi reported he is appointing Mr. Blanchfield and Mr. Werner to replace the two empty IPP Committee seats.

Mr. Mauro stated he had nothing to report.

Ms. Hoffman stated she will save her report for the Executive Session.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Nothing to report.

#### **AD HOC DOCUMENT REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Nothing to report.

#### **INSURANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

Atty Gaul reported no additional progress.

#### **OPERATIONS REPORT**

Mr. Morgan reported on behalf of Mr. Wilson, no additions to the report. The Disk Filter is awaiting a panel before running.

#### **ADDITIONAL REPORTING**

- ❖ **Old Business:** None
- ❖ **Unfinished Business:** None
- ❖ **New Business:** None

At 7:13 p.m. – A motion was made by Mr. Riegel, and seconded by Mr. Werner, to enter an Executive Session to discuss pending legal matters with Solicitor Gaul. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

At 7:48 p.m. – A motion was made by Mr. Werner, and seconded by Mr. Blanchfield, to enter into Public Session. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

A motion was made by Mr. Campos, and seconded by Mr. Mauro, to engage Newman Williams as substitute counsel in the Weyerbacher Brewing Company bankruptcy, while Solicitor Gaul is away. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

A motion was made by Mr. Hopkins, and seconded by Mr. Werner, to direct the Solicitor to file a request to the court that Weyerbacher Brewing Company be prohibited from discharging beer product to the WWTP without authority oversight of the process and associated relief. **Motion Carried (10-0).**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Mr. Blanchfield, and seconded by Mr. Hopkins, and unanimously carried, at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Lane, EAJSA Recording Secretary