

MINUTES OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY OF BUFFALO TOWNSHIP

AUGUST 19, 2021 REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

PRESENT: John Haven, Chairperson; Rosemarie Ciaccio, Vice-Chairperson; Eric Smith, Secretary; Richard Healey, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer; Michael Hnath, Solicitor; Ed Schmitt, Engineer; Matt Sprung, Engineer; Kristy Donaldson, Manager

VIA PHONE: Patrick Reitz, Treasurer

1. The August 19, 2021, regular monthly meeting of the Municipal Authority of Buffalo Township was called to order by Chairperson John Haven at 7:00 p.m.
2. John Haven stated that the meeting was being recorded and requested that if anyone in the audience is taping the meeting to please state their name and address.
3. Approval of the minutes of the June 23, 2021, regular monthly meeting: A motion was made by Richard Healey, and seconded by Eric Smith, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2021, regular monthly meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Open to the floor: Evelyn Callender, 122 Crescent Hill Drive, stated that she is in attendance to represent residents in her area regarding water service. She was at the last Buffalo Township Board of Supervisors meeting and requested that the money from Penn Energy Act 13 and a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act be provided to the Authority to extend public water in her area and public sewage to residents along Ekastown Road. She stated that she is willing to go door to door for a survey since the last survey was done in 2014. She is requesting that the Authority pursue the funding from the Township. The Board agreed that the Authority would pursue the funding and that Ms. Callender provide her survey results to the Authority. Ed Schmitt stated he would work with Kristy Donaldson to get her the numbers for the cost of the project per household. She also asked about sewage to the Lassinger property on Ekastown Road. Ed Schmitt stated he would get her those numbers as well.

Barb Panza, 110 Kimberly Drive, asked how much are tapping fees? Kristy Donaldson told her water connection and tapping fees are \$4,400.00, of which \$2,000.00 would be put towards the project and \$2,400.00 would go into the capital fund. Ms. Panza asked how the residential developments are getting water and sewage. Kristy Donaldson explained the developer process and agreements and how the Authority does not pay a penny for water and sewage service to the developments. Ms. Panza asked about grants to fund the project. Ed Schmitt explained to her the grant process and steps that are necessary to take including an interest from the community, for example the water survey, the Board would need to agree to pursue grant funding, other funds would need to be contributed as a match and for the residents to contact the local politicians.

Michael Hnath asked the group in attendance how far they are from the well pad. The response from the group indicated several different distances. Ed Schmitt asked the group in attendance if the drilling of the well has begun. The group wasn't sure. John Haven asked how many residents in attendance have treatment systems on their wells. Everyone in attendance raised their hands.

David Steingraber, 121 Kimberly Drive, asked what the lead time would be on the project from start to finish. Ed Schmitt estimated one year as long as there is no issue on permitting.

Additional discussion took place on the funding. Ed Schmitt stated that the federal funding is still out there but hasn't come through Pennvest yet and not sure how to request it yet. Michael Hnath stated that the funding is for Townships and not Authorities. John Haven asked Gary Risch how much money the Township has received. Gary Risch stated it's supposed to be \$730,000.00 over two years, but they haven't received anything yet and the rules on how to spend it haven't been clearly defined.

Michael Slater, 107 Crescent Hill Drive, asked if the residents in the area would have to foot the whole bill for the project. Ed Schmitt replied yes and it is isolated to each area that benefits from the project.

John Haven suggested to the residents to sign a petition for Senator Pitman indicating they would want a grant for this project.

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5. Treasurer's Report:
 - a. Financial Reports for June 2021 & July 2021: The Treasurer's reports for June 2021 & July 2021 were presented. A motion was made by Eric Smith, seconded by Richard Healey, to approve the Treasurer's reports for June 2021 & July 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Invoices: The Board reviewed the list of monthly bills for approval as of August 19, 2021. A motion was made by Rosemarie Ciaccio to approve payment of the monthly bills. The motion was seconded by Richard Healey, and passed unanimously.

6. Manager's Report (presented by Kristy Donaldson):
 - a. Linda Stempkoski's last working day with the Authority was July 30, 2021. Shannon Seagriff was hired to fill the vacancy and started July 20, 2021.
 - b. The lien payment and water tap for Mr. & Mrs. Rotto of Beale Road was received and completed, as discussed during the June meeting.
 - c. A letter addressed to the Manager of South Buffalo Township Water Authority was presented to the Board. The letter serves as an update and reminder in accordance with the Agreement to provide bulk water to South Buffalo. The Board agreed that the letter be sent to the Manager as well as the Water Authority Board.
 - d. The following operations update was provided:
 - i. June 25th – service leak on Creekside Drive was repaired.
 - ii. Week of July 12th – update to UV system at the sewage treatment plant was completed.
 - iii. July 28th & July 31st – leak on the pressurized transmission line along Old Pike Road was repaired. John Haven asked Ed Schmitt if he thought replacing or sleeving the existing transmission line would prevent this issue from occurring again. Ed Schmitt stated that sleeving would cause a reduction. Smoother, new pipe would help the issue and cutting in valves would be helpful.
 - iv. August 5th – service leak on Heathfield Drive was repaired.

7. Solicitor's Report:
 - a. No separate report provided.

8. Engineer's Report:
 - a. Ed Schmitt reported that the Freeport Terminals cleared the area near the access ramp to the river. Gibson-Thomas's survey crew will be onsite to look at the area for a new access ramp as agreed upon with the Freeport Terminals.

9. Old Business:
 - a. No old business to report

10. New Business:
 - a. Kristy Donaldson updated the Board on an offer from Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority to fund an annual subscription of WaterSuite for MABT as part as their consent order with DEP. In lieu of paying a fine, PWSA is purchasing subscriptions for two community water systems along the Allegheny River – MABT and New Kensington. WaterSuite is an online, real-time, source water program that allows users to identify potential contaminants upstream from their water intakes. Richard Healey and Eric Smith made the motion to accept the annual subscription from PWSA. Rosemarie Ciaccio seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
 - b. Kristy Donaldson presented a request from Snyder Brothers to enter into a gas lease for three of the Authority's properties in Freeport – the Freeport Tank site and two sites that sit along the railroad tracks. Michael Hnath stated that since Kristy has an objection to this project and his firm represents Snyder Brothers, have Brian Farrington, Attorney with Lutz Pawk & Black, take a look at the lease agreement. Ed Schmitt suggested contacting Snyder Brothers to get further information on the project and what they want with the properties. Matt Sprung and Ed Schmitt talked about the drilling projects at Beaver Run and how there have been no surface

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- water issues. They suggested asking Snyder Brothers for maps of the project with plats. Eric Smith made the motion to contact Brian Farrington to have him review the gas lease agreement. Richard Healey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.
- c. A group discussion took place regarding water service to the Audubon Park on Monroe Road. The initial thought was to have them tap off of the 6" line that runs down over the hill from Silverview Drive to feed the Phillips property and run MABT's ditch row for the sewer main line. Both Ed Schmitt and Michael Hnath agreed that the easement for sewage may only be for sewage. Kristy Donaldson stated she had the easement agreements and would take a look at them to see if they are specific to sewage. If they are specific to sewage, then the Audubon Society would need to get easements from their neighbors to run the water service. It was also suggested to see if the neighbors would want water service as well. John Haven stated that he would schedule a meeting with Jim Bonner of the Audubon Society.
 - d. John Haven and Kristy Donaldson discussed a meeting they had with Freeport Borough on July 21, 2021, concerning their sewage treatment operations. The Borough inquired about having MABT manage their operations and provide a licensed operator. At this time, the main issue is that Freeport is unionized and MABT is not. Richard Healey asked what MABT's liability would be. Discussion took place on the current state of their operations and how much money it would cost each household to fund their project as stated in their DEP consent order.
11. Adjournment: Eric Smith made the motion to adjourn the regular monthly meeting, which was seconded by Richard Healey and passed unanimously. The regular monthly meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.