

Northeastern York County Sewer Authority

September 23, 2024

The Northeastern York County Sewer Authority met on Monday, September 23, beginning at 7:00 PM at 200 North Main Street in Mt. Wolf.

Authority members and others in attendance were:

Mt. Wolf Borough

Patti Fisher
Anya Barlett

Manchester Borough

Dale Benedick
Judy Hilliard

East Manchester Township

Tyler Kramlick
Tom Beakler

Members absent: None.

Engineer: Chris Toms of CS Davidson, Inc.

Solicitor: Steve Ahlbrandt, of Stock & Leader, attended in Peter Ruth's absence.

Office Manager/Recording Secretary: Desiree Boorujy

Visitors/Employees: Employees Peter Nestlerode and Tessa Starkes.

Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda

A Barlett/Benedick motion was made to approve the agenda with the following amendments: Under Operations Report add the following items: C. Truck Purchase; D. Sale of Frack Tanks; E. Biosolids Injection at the Farm. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

A Beakler/Hilliard motion was made to approve the minutes from the August monthly meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence/Visitors – None.

Operations/Administration Report

Desiree Boorujy reviewed items on the Administration report:

Stolen Checks – Checks that were mailed for the Sheetz/Wex credit card payment were intercepted while enroute to Sheetz. The checks were manipulated to be written out to two separate individuals in New York, and the amounts were changed on each check from \$351.19 to 19,351.19. A police report has been filed, and the bank is investigating as well. Although the bank has deposited those funds back into the operating account, fraud is still a concern. Desiree is now set up to review all checks that are presented to the bank and can deny them being paid if she notices any more fraudulent checks.

BRIF payments – The new security system will be installed soon, and Desiree asked if the invoice can be paid out of the BRIF account, as the expense can be considered a capital improvement expense. She also asked if the HVAC system replacement at Pete’s office building, although it has already been paid for out of the operating account, whether the Authority can reimburse itself using the BRIF account. This should also be considered a capital improvement. After some discussion and consideration, it was determined that both items can be paid out of the BRIF. Desiree will present requisitions for approval at next month’s meeting.

Phone System – The process has begun to transition to a new Cytracom phone system, effective on or about October 22. There is no cost for the phones and there will be many new features to modernize the way the Authority staff makes and receives calls. The new system will also be a cost savings to the Authority, although the savings will not be significant.

Budget Meeting – A budget meeting was scheduled for October 21 at 6:00 at 200 North Main Street.

Pete Nestlerode reviewed the Maintenance/Operations Report:

Maintenance & Operations Report

Selling of Frack Tanks – The Municibid auction to sell the frack tanks ended with lots of interest but no bidders. After the auction ended, Pete received a phone call from someone who is very interested in purchasing the tanks. Per Attorney Ahlbrandt, the auction should be run again exactly how it was initially run, and if it ends without success again, Pete can sell them outright to the interested person. **A Kramlick/Benedick motion was made to relist the frack tanks on Municibid, and to sell them outright to the interested party if the auction ends without success. The motion passed unanimously.**

Biosolids Application Feasibility Study - Because plant staff have been unable to haul sludge to the farm due to the aggrator being out of commission, Spring Valley Spreading LLC has been used to haul sludge to the farm. Spring Valley’s equipment was impressively more efficient than the Authority’s own equipment, and all three digesters are empty for the first time in many years. Pete would like to work with the engineer to determine if it would be in the Authority’s best interest to sell hauling equipment and have Spring Valley haul sludge twice a year. Chris Toms suggested that this study be completed now so that educated decisions can be made regarding the digester upgrades. No action was taken at this time.

Selling of Vehicles – According to Kelly Blue Book, even in poor condition, we should be able to get \$6-8,000 for the F-150 truck and \$3-5,000 for the E-250 van. Pete reached out to the COSTARS representative to secure a quote for a vehicle to replace the F-150 and the E-250. He responded quickly with a quote for a Chevy, but did not have the Ford information available at the time. The board would like to see a quote for a Ford at next month’s meeting and will compare to the Chevy quote before making a decision. It will likely take 4 or more months to receive the chosen vehicle. Considering that timeline, the board will have time to take this purchase into consideration when the 2025 budget is discussed in October.

Biosolids Injecting at Farm – Spring Valley Spreading will continue to be used while the aggrator is still out of commission. Sludge needs to be applied at the farm prior to soy being planted. The

idea of not repairing the aggtator was discussed, but it's needed as a backup until the digester upgrades are complete. After the upgrades are complete, selling the aggtator will be considered. Chris Toms pointed out the benefits to using Spring Valley Spreading full-time: Hauling can be done in 16 days, rather than the 41 days it takes to use the aggtator. The Authority would save on costs of paying employees salary, as well as on maintenance and repairs of the machine. Mr. Toms suggested that the board consider approving \$62k in the budget for Spring Valley to do the sludge hauling and estimated that the Authority may be able to sell the aggtator for around \$121k. The savings could be used to buy a tractor and other items. Tyler suggested that Pete contact Spring Valley to lock in a rate for 2025.

Solicitor's Report – The solicitor's report provided by Attorney Ruth was reviewed.

Park Street & Musser Run Pump Stations – Attorney Ruth is having difficulty getting responses from the owners of these properties. Next month he may be asking for permission to take all appropriate action to start the process of taking by eminent domain.

Engineer's Report

Award Contract for Mt Wolf Borough Sanitary Sewer Maintenance – Chris Toms provided a map planning out areas for improvement within Mount Wolf Borough. The map indicated areas where lines need to be replaced, lined, or televised. Chris would work with staff to gather quotes from companies that are COSTARS members. **A Kramlick/Benedick motion was made to perform all televising according to the map and to obtain quotes for pipe lining. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Authority board was pleased to hear that Mayor Starner has been very complimentary of Rogele's communication and handling of the projects in the borough so far. The projects are being completed in a timely manner.

N. George Street Pump Station – Contract is set to expire September 26. Lead times are now months longer than initially expected. Chris has asked the general contractor for an updated time line for completion, but hasn't heard back yet. **A Kramlick/Beakler motion was made to allow an extension of the contract for the North George Street pump station project. The motion passed unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report

Payment of Invoices – **A Barlett/Beakler motion was made to approve the invoices as presented. The motion passed unanimously.**

Requisitions – **A Kramlick/Benedick motion was made to approve the following requisitions: 2024-16 for \$4,568.92 to CS Davidson for Mount Wolf Borough sewer line repairs; 2024-17 to Clearview Excavation Inc. for North Sherman Street manhole repairs. The motion carried.**

At 7:57 PM an Executive Session was held to discuss legal issues.

The regular meeting reconvened at 8:29 PM.

Adjournment - With nothing further to discuss, a Beakler/Kramlick motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM. The motion passed unanimously.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING – Monday, October 28, 2024.