

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY OCTOBER 10, 2022

The Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday October 10, 2022. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, the following attended:

James Toth – Chairman – Arrived late

Sean Pence – Vice Chairman

Joe McGeehan – Member

Fred Ebert – Engineer

Tim Watson – Sewer Operator

Edward Wagner – Manager

James Vlahos – Treasurer

Mark Loshnowsky – Secretary

Stephen Kalis – Solicitor

Ashlea Bullock – Absent

Mr. Pence announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY MINUTES: Mr. Pence requested a motion to approve the September 12, 2022, meeting minutes and Mr. Loshnowsky made the motion and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

COMMENTS FROM VISITORS: No Visitors

OLD BUSINESS

Update on the flow meter installation for the Sanatoga Green Development

Mr. Watson stated that the flow meter installation is complete. We are waiting to get a price on a chip that we would be able to remotely monitor the flows from the meter. The group discussed the new development and the progress being made on both the Sanatoga Crossing and Sanatoga Green Apartments.

Mr. Toth arrives at 6:05PM.

Update on Sanatoga Lake Pump Station Pump replacement project

Mr. Watson reviewed the previously discussed issues with the group. He explained that the pump company representative reached out to him and explained that Gayle Corporation is not covering the full cost of labor. Mr. Watson reached out to his contact there & discussed the best they would agree to is to split the cost of labor 50/50 as well as the parts. Mr. Watson stated that we are awaiting on the documentation for the quoted pricing, however the labor costs are unclear as it is determined by the amount of time spent on the project. Mr. Ebert explained to the group he is confident with this replacement shaft we will not have to worry in the near future of a repeated break causing the need for a full replacement. Mr. McGeehan would like the warranty to be reinstated when the pump is placed back in service, the board members supported his request. Mr. Ebert stated that he will ask for that but does not believe that the request will be fulfilled. Mr. Watson does believe that there is a small warranty from the builder of the pump. Mr. Watson explained that he has requested the return of the bad shaft. Mr. McGeehan stated that he could have his lab analyze it to see if they can identify the cause of the break. Members thoughts this was great idea and thanked Mr. McGeehan for his offer to conduct an analysis. Mr. Watson will coordinate the date and time to get the shaft to Mr. McGeehan.

Report on the Porter Road Pump Station ongoing maintenance issues

- Report on vactor cleaning of the wet well & grout the influent line – Mr. Watson stated that they are going to grout tomorrow and vac cleaning the pump station this Wednesday October 12th. There was a week delay due to inclement weather. Mr. Pence wanted to know what the plan is going forward. Mr. Ebert stated it depends on what is found once the wet well is cleaned out. Also, they intend to run a camera up the line to evaluate the situation and if the grout does not work then the next step is a pipe liner.
- Report on the meter replacement project October 27th – Mr. Watson stated that the meter is to schedule to arrive on the 26th and be installed on the next day.
- Consideration to purchase two (2) plug valves @ \$3,469.32 – Mr. Watson explained that these have needed to be replaced for some time, but the knife gate valves needed to be replaced first before the two valves. He then explained the definition of a plug valve to the group with the help of Mr. Ebert. Mr. Pence made the motion and seconded by Mr. Vlahos to purchase two plug valves at a cost of \$3,469.32. It was unanimously approved 5-0.

Update on Sunnyside Avenue sewer main replacement project

- Two-inch paving overlay \$41,762.00 – Mr. Wagner explained that this cost is within our original budget for this project. He requested a motion to approve Sacks and Son of Zieglerville, PA to install the final wearing course. Mr. Loshnowsky made the motion and seconded by Mr. McGeehan to pave the portion of Sunnyside Avenue that was dug up as part of the sewer main project and it was unanimously approved 5-0.

Revised pricing on the Kepler Road pipe liner project \$79,360.80

Mr. Wagner explained that Mr. Watson believed at the last meeting the pipe liner project on Kepler Road would be significantly less than the original quote of \$142,000.00. Unfortunately, the second quote was similar in price. Mr. Wagner discussed with Sewer Specialties the true cost comes from the individual t-liners that need to install in this portion of the Kepler Road. Mr. Wagner recommended to perform the liner for the sewer main in December and in earlier 2023 complete the t-liners. Mr. Ebert stated he will discuss with Sewer Specialties the approach that Mr. Wagner suggested. . Mr. Pence made a motion to approve the \$79,360.80 for lining 1,538 Feet with a follow-up discussion on the cost of the t-liners at the November meeting, Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved 5-0.

DISCUSSION ON BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Next meeting October 13th

Mr. Wagner stated there was an issue with the centrifuge causing the WTPP to have to stop accepting sludge until they could remove some inventory in order to dilute and restart the digesters. WTPP sent up to ten loads of sludge a day out to other plants who have stepped up to help us start reducing inventory. The centrifuge was removed, and inspection shows nothing wrong internally, and the WTPP changed out the gearbox as well to possibly rule that out. WTPP rented a belt press in order to process the sludge and get their inventory where it needs to be in order to restart the digesters; this is an unexpected expense but necessary to get the plant back to normal conditions.

- 2023 PBA Preliminary Allocation Budget – Mr. Wagner explained that they were able to determine they have to replace three (3) 30" valves and five (5) 36" valves at a cost of \$336,000.00. He also stated that they asked about the thermal blankets for the dryer and that was not received well from PBA staff. Mr. Ebert explained to Mr. Keller that our authority board had questions he could not answer so he was simply asking the questions to relay the answers back to my board.

Mr. Wagner provided the group that our portion of flows to the WTPP will increase from 26 percent to 28 percent in 2023 This in turn will result in a yearly contribution of \$724,000. The current amount is \$628,186 which is an increase of \$95,814. Mr. Pence questioned if that is a good metric for measuring flow reduction and Mr. Ebert explained yes it compares our flows to the tributary municipalities flows.

DEVELOPERS DISCUSSION & UPDATE – (CAP)—APPROVAL OF CAP/CMP REPORTS

Mr. Ebert explained that they have had one (1) dry weather SSO because of the wipes and rags clogging the main at the intersection of Buchert and Bahr Roads. The flows this past month averaged around 37 million which is the third consecutive month that flows have been down. Thus far in October it is down as well. Mr. Ebert attributed this decrease to the work being done to repair issues in the sewer system.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to allocate one (1) EDU for 1420 Kepler Road

Mr. Wagner explained this is for a new residential home being built and they have paid for their EDU. Mr. McGeehan made the motion to allocate one (1) EDU to the property of 1420 Kepler Road and Sean Pence seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously 5-0 to approve

Presentation on the 2023 Draft Operation and Capital Sewer Budgets

Mr. Wagner presented to the board the draft sewer budget in which he is not recommending a rate increase for 2023. He reviewed the capital side of the budget: a logic controller is needed at the Porter Road Pump Station. Mr. Watson explained to the group the logic controller runs the entire operation of the pump station. It would be replaced by the same model that is at the Sanatoga Lake Pump Station. Mr. Pence asked how much it would cost, Mr. Wagner estimated approximately \$85,000.00. He also stated that they have budgeted approximately \$8,900.00 for an electric gate at Porter Road as it has become a safety hazard entering and exiting onto Porter Road. In addition, there is \$165,000.00 budgeted for the previously discussed bank restoration project at Sanatoga Lake.

There will be one sewer main replacement project which will occur on Hilltop Road between Buchert and Cedar Hill Roads at an approximate cost of \$600,000.00 plus the costs of final paving. Mr. Watson explained that the line is clay, every connection has infiltration, and it has a lot of flow. It is not a viable candidate for lining. He explained we will utilize the same situation as both the Woodland and Sunnyside projects. Replace the sewer main and install a new four-inch private lateral connection to the legal right of way. Mr. Ebert stated that he would like to apply for the H2O grant for the second phase of the project. Mr. Pence made a motion to approve Ebert Engineering to pursue the H2O grant for the second phase of Hilltop Rd between Cedar Hill and Brooke Roads. Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously 5-0 to approve. Mr. Wagner concluded that if you have any questions regarding the budget, please feel free to contact me. At the November meeting we will need to ratify the 2023 budget.

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Vlahos read the Treasurers' Report Dated October 10, 2022:

Sewer Revenue Account	\$3,345,909.94
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$2,215,729.37

Mr. Loshnowsky made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Kalis read the Bills for Payment as presented:

CAPITAL BILLS

SEWER CAPITAL VICTORY

Ebert Engineering, Inc. – Capital Update	\$0.00
Ebert Engineering, Inc. – Sunnyside	\$6,736.13
McCarthy Engineering – Sanatoga Streambank	\$695.93
Fox Rothschild, LLP – Sunnyside	\$0.00
Sewer Specialty Services – Request #62	\$9,462.42
Almeida & Hudak Contr. – Payment #1 Sunnyside	\$339,994.55
Borough of Pottstown – Hydraulic Bypass Project.	\$3,854.00

OPERATING ACCOUNT INVOICES

EBERT ENGINEERING, INC	\$3,531.25
FOX ROTHSCHILD, LLP	\$418.00

Mr. Pence made a motion to pay the bills as presented and Mr. Vlahos seconded the motion, and all unanimously approved the bills for payment by a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Pence made a motion to adjourn the public meeting, the meeting adjourned at 6:52 pm, the next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2022, at 6:00 pm at the Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Wagner
Authority Manager