MINUTES

SHREWSBURY BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING                                                                   FEBRUARY 26, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT:  Dennis Wertz, John Hoover, Ted Nadobny and Terry Blomquist

OTHERS PRESENT:  Brian L. Sweitzer, Supt. of Public Works; Jeffrey L. Rehmeyer II, Esq.;

Jason Brenneman P.E.; Brian Parrish; Andrew Campbell; Atty. Steve

Hovis

A regular meeting of the Municipal Authority convened at 7:00 p.m. at the Shrewsbury Borough Municipal Building, 35 West Railroad Avenue, with Chairman Nadobny presiding.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

D. Wertz moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2020 meeting.

J. Hoover seconded.  The motion carried with all voting in favor.

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS**

Brian Parrish and Atty. Steve Hovis were present to discuss the possibility of some of the 17 existing sewer EDUs attached to Lots 4 and 5 at the top of Caprice Court in Shrewsbury Township being transferred to another property a few hundred yards away, True Value, since the lots would be using the same sewer drainage line. Lots 4 and 5 each have five Borough EDUs attached, and there is believed to be seven Township EDUs associated with the two lots.

The sewer line capacity study that was completed by the Authority’s engineer in 2018 indicated that this sewer line, known as the north interceptor, is at full capacity. The study was done based on metered sewer flows. The study did not incorporate potential, added sewer flows from capacity reserved in the sewer plant that would need to utilize the north interceptor. The interceptor and the pump station both need to be upgraded or replaced. No developers have come forward to offer to pay for the upgrades and there is no new sewer capacity to sell.

Supt. Sweitzer stated that some work to decrease infiltration and inflow (“I & I”) had been done on the north interceptor since the study was done. There are others in this drainage area who own EDUs but are not in use. The Borough Secretary was asked to develop a list of the property owners who have paid for EDUs that are not in use to determine if a moratorium needs to be put in place. Since the study was done in 2018 and I & I work has been done since then, an updated sewer flow study will be done for a six-month period.

It was noted that sewer capacity is reserved to particular properties, and therefore an Authority approval is necessary to transfer it elsewhere. The Authority has not approved recent sewer capacity transfer requests from one municipality to another in its service area. Likewise, the Authority has not approved requests to transfer capacity from one collection area to another, even if in the same municipality.

Brian Parrish stated there are 17 EDUs near the YMCA that the owner states they will not use and are willing to transfer them to another location. He asked about the area of Elm Drive near the Rabbittransit parcel if those flows would go to another interceptor and the answer was yes, that that line has remaining capacity for added sewer flows.

Supt. Sweitzer indicated that the sewer flow meters could be deployed in and around the north interceptor to determine if the completed I & I work might have alleviated some excess sewer flows and therefore the north interceptor may no longer be at maximum capacity. If the north interceptor has some capacity, it would be used first to allow sewer capacity reserved in that collection area to be utilized. Without capacity in the north interceptor, the Authority cannot approve a transfer of capacity and additional connections may need to be prohibited, too.

J. Hoover moved that an updated sewer flow study be performed on the north interceptor for up to six months, depending upon the weather conditions.

T. Blomquist seconded. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

**EXPENDITURES AND REPORT OF ACCOUNT**

D. Wertz moved to approve the January report of accounts.

J. Hoover seconded. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

**BUSINESS**

Vacancy

Andrew Campbell had submitted a letter of interest and resume for the open position. He introduced himself and spoke about his work experience.

J. Hoover moved to recommend to Council that Andrew Campbell be appointed to the Municipal Authority.

D. Wertz seconded. The motion carried with all voting in favor.

**PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Deer Creek Force Main

The Deer Creek sewer force main pipe work is complete with pavement restoration to be performed in April with the Authority’s share being 55.6% of $36,750.00.

Sewer Flows

The last two months our sewer flows have been the minority at the plant due to the diligent work of the Public Works Department In 2019 who televised and cleaned 29,167 lineal feet of sewer line. They made 27 manhole or sewer line repairs totaling 125 gallons per minute of infiltration and inflow.

EDU Gallons

Shrewsbury’s sewer flows were 680,477 gallons per day in 2019. The current EDU amount is 350 gallons per day. DEP still classifies one EDU at 350 gallons per day. Eng. Brenneman stated that when the Chapter 94 report is done, a lower EDU is reported based on the number of connections compared with the flows and DEP accepts that number in the report. The Borough’s Water and Sewer Committee met and discussed the possibility of reducing the number of gallons that comprise an EDU. It was mentioned that the sewer treatment plant cannot operate at the permitted number of gallons due to stricter regulations by DEP so now may not be a good time to reduce the number of gallons and sell more EDUs. Sol. Rehmeyer stated a meeting with New Freedom Borough officials will take place in early March with Chairman Nadobny and Supt. Sweitzer attending on behalf of Shrewsbury Borough/Authority. Sol. Rehmeyer also stated that Shrewsbury Borough/Authority should consider being consistent with what New Freedom Borough does so that both Boroughs continue to have the same number of gallons per day attributable to an EDU. New Freedom Borough is opening bids for the belt filter press project tomorrow and the major plant upgrade is to take place in about four years.

Essex Circle Drive Geogrid

The pavement restoration for the Essex Circle Drive sewer replacement work will be done after the water line project is finished. The Authority’s share is 85.8% of $25,000.00.

Essex Circle Drive Right-of-Way Sewer Leaks

Supt. Sweitzer met with DEP yesterday about the wetlands south of Essex Circle Drive. There are two manholes that are underwater due to the silt and vegetation in the basin. DEP instructed Supt. Sweitzer to apply for a permit for the sewer work with a permit being issued in about three months. The permanent vegetation clearing would require a permit that mostly likely would be issued in 2021 due to the backlog. Other options are being explored to perhaps do both projects at the same time. The basin cleaning has a $56,250.00 grant with both projects costing around $72,000.00.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

Discussed earlier.

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

Stewartstown Railroad

Information was received from the attorney for Stewartstown Railroad that lists the payments made by the Authority up until 2016 where the yearly payments of $222.00 stopped. He also stated Omega Rail sent an invoice for $1,222.00 for two crossings for 2017 through 2020. The Authority is disputing this amount. No other municipality in the area has been shown to pay an annual rental fee. Atty. Snyder is suggesting a new fee schedule with increases followed by a yearly price increase based on the Consumer Price Index. The information will be considered. If a new agreement is signed, the Authority would want it to be long-term.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

D. Wertz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

J. Hoover seconded. The motion carried with all in favor.

Prepared by Cindy L. Bosley, Recording Secretary