MINUTES

 SHREWSBURY BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

REGULAR MEETING                                                                   September 25, 2024

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

 Andrew Campbell

OTHERS PRESENT:  Brian L. Sweitzer, Supt. of Public Works; Courtney Buechler, Esq.;

 and Pasquale Petrovia

A regular meeting of the Municipal Authority convened at 7:04 p.m. with Chairman Blomquist presiding.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

J. Hoover moved to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2024 meeting.

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

**CITIZEN’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Petrovia taken under Business.

**EXPENDITURES AND REPORT OF ACCOUNTS**

T. Nadobny moved to approve the August expenditures and report of accounts.

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

**BUSINESS/PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

1270 East Tolna Road Meter Bypass

The meter has had a zero reading since 2017. The office assumed the property was vacant. Mr. Petrovia was present to discuss the flat rate per quarter billing starting with the third quarter of 2021. Mr. Petrovia did say that the oil burner quit working and the meter froze. In order to fill the radiator with water for heat, he by-passed the meter and then forgot to call the Borough office. The meter has been repaired. Mr. Petrovia stated his nephew moved into the house this January. Mr. Petrovia also spoke about the issue he has when the sewer main gets dug up and fresh stone put alongside the pipe causes the water to follow the stones and his pond doesn’t get the water it needs for the fish. Supt. Sweitzer stated this main could be slip lined in the future.

J. Hoover moved that the invoice be reduced to a flat rate billing for the first and second quarters of this year less the minimum amounts paid and the credit on the account.

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

New Freedom Waste Water Treatment Plant Blower Project

The bid opening for the blower project is on October 4.

Stewartstown Railroad Track Improvements and Omega Invoices

John Nolan from the Stewartstown Railroad contacted Supt. Sweitzer with regards to the railroad crossing at Windy Hill Road where the sewer line crosses the tracks. Stewartstown Railroad had asked the Authority to contributed to the $6,100 repair since a two feet area outside the rails is sunken due to our previous sewer project. The crossing was repaired last month without our contribution. Omega Rail’s latest invoice dates back to 2021 for a total cost of $5,801.20.

SCAP Fees

The belt press and SCADA project cost us $1,052,125 in 2019. The present blower project cost us #462,900. We are fully paid with the help of the PennVEST loan for the 2019 project. We will have accumulated $1,506,602 at the end of the second quarter billing of 2025. The SCAP fee will be discussed during the budget meetings.

PennVEST Loan

The Borough borrowed $865,271.60 for the belt press and SCADA project in 2019. The loan interest rate is 1.562%. We made lump sum payments in 2022 and 2023 but none in 2024. The PLGIT interest rate is 5% and the PennVEST loan has a balance of $416,821.

Railroad Borough Connection Costs

Railroad Borough owns some of its sewer lines that the Borough employees are paid to maintain. There needs to be clarification made as to when, if at all, the Authority should receive the system collection fee of $1,813.92 in addition to the required inspection fee. A meeting needs to be held with Railroad Borough to see how this should be resolved and then an Intergovernmental Agreement would be prepared.

Hillwood Warehouse on Elm Drive US Industrial Club V Enterprises, LLC

Parcels 45000BJ0056; 45000BJ57Q and 45000BJ0059A

As discussed last month, the plan was reviewed by Supt. Sweitzer and Eng. Brenneman and comments dated August 16 were provided to the Developer and the Engineer. The sewer planning exemption was submitted for the 19 Township EDUs the Developer owns that were obtained from Grace Fellowship Church that were sold back to Shrewsbury Township earlier this year who, in turn, sold them to the Hillwood Developer. New Freedom Borough sent a letter that there is capacity in the plant. A ‘will serve’ letter was prepared by the Authority. The plan was amended and submitted for review by Eng. Brenneman and Supt. Sweitzer on September 17 and all comments have been addressed.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

T. Blomquist moved to adjourn to executive session at 7:40 p.m.

A. Campbell seconded. The motion carried with all voting in favor and the meeting recording stopped.

D. Wertz moved to commence the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

T. Nadobny seconded. The motion carried with all voting in favor and the meeting recording resumed.

**ENGINEER’S REPORT**

**SOLICITOR’S REPORT**

1270 East Tolna Road Meter Bypass

In response to the vote regarding the revised invoice, Sol. Rehmeyer will prepare a corresponding letter to follow-up on the documentation offered by Mr. Petrovia to support his claims of the residence occupation dates. This will allow the Authority to establish a date of functioning usage by the residence through utility activity on the property other than water usage, given the original bypass installation which prevented the water usage to be properly monitored and charged.

Sewer Capital Improvement Fee

A. Campbell moved to direct Sol. Rehmeyer’s office to respond to Attorney Minnich that the Authority will respond to his request in November after more information will be obtained during budget discussions regarding the reasonable sewer capital improvement fee and the expectation of how long it may continue to be billed.

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

York Water Company Meter Reads

As discussed last month, Sol. Rehmeyer had submitted the Addendum No. 1 to the Agreement for Provision of Meter Readings for the additional homes in the Township where we had planned to remove our meters. The York Water Company’s attorney sent an email to Sol. Rehmeyer that the Company will start charging a fee of $2.25 per month per read in 2025, which will increase to $2.75 per read for the beginning of 2026. She indicated that others are being charged $3.00 per read presently. The letters to about 250 homes in the Township, informing residents that the Authority would no longer read and maintain their meters, have not been sent yet. The billing clerk is waiting for three months of read history to process the September 30 billing. In the meantime, the Authority will continue to read its meters in these homes. It was noted that The York Water Company is already reading the meters for its own billing purposes and it was felt that an additional charge being levied for the same meter reading on the same customer was inappropriate. The Authority’s billing clerk receives monthly meter reads from The York Water Company an inputs them into the billing system. However, these reads often include estimates and no reads, and frequent meter changes lead to confusion, requiring the clerk to spend considerable time seeking clarification from the Company.

Attorney Chiaruttini, representing The York Water Company, stated that she will ask the Customer Service and IT team to be in touch with the Authority’s representative to try to discuss the service issues with the meter reads.

The next step is to analyze the problems with the data that is obtained from The York Water Company.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

D. Wertz moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m.

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

Prepared by Cindy L. Bosley, Recording Secretary