

**A REGULAR MEETING
BERKS-MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
APRIL 26, 2021**

A Regular Meeting was held at the Administration Building on April 26, 2021 at 7:00 PM EDT with the following members present:

M. Toepel	A. Stauffer
P. Donovan	S. Carpenter
K. Corson	D. Biehl

Also present:

J. Karver	L. Christy
G. Unger (via Zoom)	C. Leister
G. Moser	

Upon a motion by Mr. Biehl, seconded by Ms. Carpenter and unanimously adopted, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held March 22, 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

PLANT REPORT:

Mr. Christy presented the Plant Report. He reviewed operator grouting procedures and recommendations from our chemical grout supplier Avanti on how to make the grout more flexible and stronger by using latex in the mix. Avanti offered to work with us on grouting mixes and procedures at no additional cost. The Board is in favor of the additional training to address procedures and any safety or environmental concerns.

OFFICE REPORT:

Ms. Leister presented the Office Report. Five customers were served with the Intent to File Writ of Scire Facias notice on March 28, 2021. Two customers contacted BMMA to request a payment plan. The remaining three customers will be served with a Writ of Scire Facias due to no response or partial payment received with no additional contact.

AUTHORITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Moser presented the Authority Manager Report.

Mr. Moser reported the property owner of 435 Congo Road, Gloria Strouse, is requesting an EDU so she can proceed with a connection to the new service line for 443 Congo Road. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser reported the Bill of Sale for 158 Buchert Road has been signed and the line must be dedicated to the BMMA system. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser reported he met with Dave Coult of Milestone Financial on April 14 to review the current BMMA 457 Plan. Mr. Coult is reviewing some options for changes to the plan and will provide a report for the May Board meeting. Mr. Coult also met with all employees as a group and provided a general economic update. He then met individually with those employees who wanted to review their account.

Mr. Moser reported BMMA's electricity supply contract expires November 2022. Currently, electricity costs for the future are rising. Mr. Moser obtained bids from suppliers for 12, 24 and 36 months and reviewed the results with the board. The lowest bids per kilowatt hour (including the NITS adjustment) were from Dynegy (12 months \$.0449, 24 months \$.0457 and 36 months \$.0462). They are higher than our current rate of

\$.04316 with Constellation. The Board authorized Mr. Moser to proceed pending review of the contract by Solicitor Karver. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser recommended purchasing a spare orbital ditch gearbox for the inner ring at a cost of \$7,811.10. The one inner gearbox is exhibiting more vibration than the other unit. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser reported fourteen leaking manholes have been identified (seven in Morysville, two in the gravity basin and five in basin 3). A CoStars proposal was received from Mr. Rehab to complete the repairs at a cost of \$9,680 and he is recommending we proceed with the repairs. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser reported there are four properties in Millcrest Gardens that have an unusual sewer line installation that occurred sometime during 1976-1981. The Board needs to provide direction on how to handle this situation. The addresses are 4 Chestnut Lane, 64 and 56 Cherry Lane and 5 Walnut Lane. According to the drawing and field observations, the four properties are connected to our public line on Chestnut Lane. Individual private lines connect each of these properties through what appears to be an easement on the rear of the properties. There is no evidence of documented Right-of-Ways. There have been two incidents (one in May 2018 and one on April 7, 2021) where the property owner at 4 Chestnut Lane contacted BMMA regarding sewage discharging onto her property from one of the lines. After discussion with the Board, it was decided that Solicitor Karver will send a letter to each home owner explaining they have a private sewer system, therefore they are responsible for repairs to the lines and/or clogs in their sewer lines. However, BMMA is willing to take over the lines after improvements have been made. The property owners would be responsible for sharing the cost of the improvements.

Mr. Moser reported SDE will be presenting plans for Board of Standards approval for 303 and 335 Gilbertsville Road.

Mr. Moser reported the 400 Gilbertsville Road project has been re-activated. SDE requested updated cost estimate and the Sewer Service Agreement will need to be updated.

Mr. Moser provided an update on the Bow Lane lateral repairs. Repairs have been completed at 333 and 335 Bow Lane. A third repair is scheduled to be completed this week.

Mr. Moser provided an update to the annual usage review for commercial properties since the last meeting. Account Z199 – Adam’s Royal Car Wash, 50 Bartman Ave., needs 4 EDU’s. As directed by the Board, Solicitor Karver sent a letter to Mr. Heimer’s attorney. In response to his letter, Mr. Heimer’s attorney sent a letter to Solicitor Karver that Mr. Heimer intends to install a metering system to measure discharge into the sewer system. SDE provided specifics of what they will need to review and approve for the metering system. There has been no additional communication from Mr. Heimer’s attorney since then. BMMA provided responses to the Right to Know appeals. A determination response was received on three of the appeals.

Mr. Moser reported SDE will be reviewing estimates for lining or replacing a portion of the Water Street main.

Mr. Moser reported Boyertown Sanitary Disposal’s sewer account has a past due balance of \$839.50. He spoke to Warren Frame and Mr. Frame indicated he submitted the bills to the Coalition for payment. Mr. Moser advised the attorney for the Coalition, Tim Bergere, of the past due balance and Mr. Frame’s response. Mr. Bergere indicated he would discuss the issue with the Coalition and advise accordingly. Solicitor Karver advised BMMA to obtain approval from the Coalition prior to using escrow funds to pay the past due quarterly sewer charges for BSD.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES:

SECRETARY:

Mr. Corson reviewed the list of correspondence.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Karver had no report.

TREASURER:

No report.

ENGINEER:

Mr. Unger presented the Engineers report in Mr. Showalter's absence.

Mr. Unger is recommending Board of Standards approval of the plan for 303 and 335 Gilbertsville Road. A resolution is required.

Mr. Unger reviewed lining and replacement options and estimates for the Water Street main. Prior to making a decision on the repair, it needs to be determined if the line size should be increased to support future connections. Earl Township has not responded to the letter of interest Mr. Moser sent in February 2021. This needs to be addressed before moving forward with the repair.

Mr. Unger provided an update on the Digester Cover Replacement project. A pre-construction meeting was held on April 21. The project will be in three phases 1) cover removal, 2) sludge removal and 3) cover re-install. Cover removal is scheduled for the end of May. Proposals are being obtained for sludge removal if needed.

Mr. Unger provided an update on the Pump Station 2 Grinder project. All bids received in March were rejected and the project is being rebid. Details have been added to allow both the JWC and Franklin Miller grinders as equal. The JWC grinder will be one size larger than the unit proposed in the original bid to best match the Franklin Miller grinder. SDE will be requesting consideration for covering some of their costs to rebid the project.

Mr. Unger reported SDE is waiting for all approvals before bidding the 2021 Sanitary Sewer Replacement Grant project.

RESOLUTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Upon a motion by Ms. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Stauffer, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board approves one (1) EDU for 435 Congo Road.

Upon a motion by Mr. Donovan, seconded by Mr. Biehl and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes the acceptance of the deed of dedication for 158 Buchert Road.

Upon a motion by Mr. Corson, seconded by Ms. Carpenter, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes Mr. Moser to use his judgment and accept the most practical Dynege bid pending review of the contract by Solicitor Karver.

Upon a motion by Ms. Carpenter, seconded by Mr. Corson, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes purchasing a spare orbital ditch gearbox for the inner ring at a cost of \$7,811.10.

Upon a motion by Mr. Biehl, seconded by Mr. Stauffer, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes the repair of fourteen leaking manholes (seven in Morysville, two in the gravity basin and five in basin 3) by Mr. Rehab at a cost of \$9,680.

Upon a motion by Mr. Stauffer, seconded by Ms. Carpenter, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes Board of Standards approval for 303 and 335 Gilbertsville Road.

Upon a motion by Mr. Corson, seconded by Ms. Carpenter, and unanimously adopted, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes the payment of \$133,245.91 for the bills as presented.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Leister