

**A REGULAR MEETING
BERKS-MONTGOMERY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
AUGUST 26, 2019**

A Regular Meeting was held at the Administration Building on August 26, 2019 at 7:00 PM, EDT, with the following members present:

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

Also present:

J. Karver	L. Christy
K. Showalter	C. Leister
G. Moser	

Upon a motion by Mr. Toepel, seconded by Mr. Corson and unanimously adopted, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held July 22, 2019 with a revision as noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment.

PLANT REPORT:

Mr. Christy presented the Plant Report.

Mr. Christy reported the next WET test is scheduled for September 9, 2019.

Mr. Christy reported the new chemical dosing set points we tried had no effect on the Total Aluminum concentration.

OFFICE REPORT:

Ms. Leister presented the Office Report.

AUTHORITY MANAGER REPORT:

Mr. Moser presented the Authority Manager Report.

Mr. Moser reported DEP is issuing the permit for West Swamp Creek and if we pass the next 2 WET tests, we can return to the normal WET test schedule.

Mr. Moser reported the property owner at 103 Buchert Rd. is investigating options to connect to the sewer. His property is mostly located in Douglass Township with a small corner section in New Hanover Township. He could connect by gravity to a New Hanover Township manhole approximately 70 feet from the corner of his lot. Connecting to BMMA would require him to install a low pressure system and pump about 210 feet to the closest BMMA manhole. The board recommended doing whatever was least expensive for the resident and directed Mr. Moser to find out what the tapping fee is for New Hanover Township. Mr. Moser stated their sewer rental fee is \$150 per quarter.

Mr. Moser reported he included funds in the 2020 budget to establish a Domain Name and Website and to accept online payments and credit/debit cards for BMMA sewer payments. We are investigating alternate domain names since BMMA.com and BMMA.org have already been purchased. Mr. Moser is recommending that the Board approves moving ahead with these initiatives. A resolution is required.

Mr. Moser reported the health insurance rates for the upcoming year will be 2.9% lower than the current year for the same coverage. At the direction of the Board, Mr. Moser investigated the insurance plans used by Colebrookdale Township and SDE. Colebrookdale Township uses Tower Health which is not available in Montgomery County and SDE uses a totally different plan that uses a self-insurance for the deductibles and does not appear to be practical at this time.

Mr. Moser presented the proposed 2020 operating budget, which is .57% lower than the 2019 budget due to the reduced debt service. 2019 budget projections show we will be under budget. The Board recommended increasing the wage increase percent from 2.5% to 3%. Mr. Moser is recommending a sewer rental rate increase of \$20 per year (4%) starting in calendar year 2020. The last rate increase was 2011. The final 2020 operating budget will be submitted for approval and further discussion regarding a sewer rental rate increase will occur at the September 23, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Moser provided an update on the plans to address infiltration in the Morysville collection system:

July 17 through August 20, 1645 feet of joint testing over 113.75 hours was completed.

Mr. Rehab is tentatively scheduled for September 9 through 12 and September 16 and 17 for pressure testing and grouting.

Leak repairs are planned for August and September.

Mr. Moser reported construction for the 2019 Sewer Repair Project is scheduled to begin September 16.

Mr. Moser reported repairs to 60 Oak St., 80 Oak St. and 100 Oak St. are scheduled to be completed this week.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEES:

SECRETARY:

Mr. Toepel reviewed the list of correspondence.

SOLICITOR:

Mr. Karver had no report.

TREASURER:

No report.

ENGINEER:

Mr. Showalter presented the Engineers report.

Mr. Showalter reported SDE is recommending that BMMA issue a "Notice of Award" and "Notice to Proceed" to Solid Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a J.P. Mascaro & Sons for sludge hauling and disposal for a one year period with an option of two additional years. A resolution is required.

Mr. Showalter reported the Zern Tract interceptor replacement pipe work is complete along with the paving and grass restoration. Installation of gates at fenced areas to allow access through the easement needs to be completed. Escrow Release Request #2 for \$153,872.67 was received and reviewed by SDE and he is recommending release of the funds. A resolution is required.

Mr. Showalter reported revised plans were received and reviewed by SDE letter (DRAFT) for Stafy 2. SDE prepared a Written Certification form for approval and attachment to the DEP Planning Exemption Request to serve 14 EDU's. A resolution is required.

RESOLUTIONS & DISCUSSIONS:

Upon a motion by Mr. Corson, seconded by Mr. Toepel, and adopted by a majority vote, it was:

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes moving ahead with the plan to establish a Website and the ability to accept payment of sewer bills online and by credit and debit cards with the expense absorbed by the rate payers selecting this option.

5 Aye (Carpenter, Biehl, Toepel, Corson, Stauffer) 1 Nay (Donovan)

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

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes the issuance of the "Notice of Award" and "Notice to Proceed" to Solid Waste Services, Inc. d/b/a J.P. Mascaro & Sons for sludge hauling and disposal for one year with an option of an additional two years as outlined in their bid.

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

RESOLVED: That the Board approves Escrow Release Request #2 for \$153,872.67 for Zern Tract Sanitary Sewer Interceptor improvements.

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

RESOLVED: That the Board approves the certification form SDE prepared for Stafy 2.

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

RESOLVED: That the Board authorizes the payment of the bills as listed in these minutes.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Leister