

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on November 7, 2012

Members Attending: John Jim, Vice Chairman  
Edward W. Farling III, Treasurer  
Donald S. George, Secretary  
Charles Rehm, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

**Others Attending:** Edward Rudolph, Esquire, Solicitor  
Christopher Walker, P.E., Pennoni Associates  
David Busch, Keystone Alliance Consulting  
Debra E. Wirtz, Stenographer/Executive Assistant

Mr. Jim, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mr. Jim led the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence for our service men and women in harm's way.

**2. Approval of Minutes from October 3, 2012**

A motion (Farling-Rehm) was made adopting a resolution to approve the Minutes from October 3, 2012 passed with 4 ayes.

**4. Executive Director's Report**

**HURRICANE "SANDY"**

Water System Overview: On Sunday, October 28, 2012 the Authority implemented its "Storm Preparation Plan" in the expectation of the arrival Hurricane "Sandy". Our main priority was to insure a continuous supply water and sewer service to our customers. Though our system operates satisfactory during normal conditions, we wanted to have maximized our storage capacity prior to the storm event. Though our System Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) system we adjusted the above ground storage tank levels and the run / stop times to allow the storage tanks to fill completely overnight. The process insured we would begin the storm with at least 13 million gallons of water in storage capacity. The Authority uses on average 2.3 million gallons per day.

On Monday October 29, 2012 all facilities were inspected and anything which could become a hazard was removed or restrained. That evening, we started to lose power at several well houses and pump stations. By Tuesday morning, October 30, 2012 we had lost commercial electrical power at all well and water pump stations. The Authority's SCADA system

triggered the following stations on generators; Antler Dr. Pump Station, Well # 5, Well # 6, Richboro Pump Station, Well # 11, Well # 13, Well # 16, Well # 17, Humphreys Dr. Pump Station, Upper Holland Rd. Pump Station and Spring Garden Pump Station. The nine wells that did not have emergency power were shut down without any negative impact on operations or supply. Although numerous authorities in the area were required to issue "Boil Water Notices" by PA-DEP we did not lose pressure or supply anywhere in the system. According to PA-DEP regulations, if a system loses pressure a negative pressure exists which may allow contamination of the drinking water a Boil Water Notice must be posted. On Tuesday, October 30, 2012 arraignments were made with our fuel supplier to refill the tanks on the generators. An agreement was also made to have the fuel supplier on standby should we require additional fuel. The system switched to commercial power on October 31, 2012. The fuel tanks were topped off and the system was placed back in automatic operation through our SCADA system. A few properties received tree damage; well# 4 has 3 spruce trees along the stream that are leaning against the neighboring properties trees. Well # 3 had two trees fall our operations team is in the process of removing them. Several large trees fell over in the wooded area at Upper Holland Road but create no problems for the authority.

Sanitary Sewer System Overview: On Monday evening all sewer pump stations lost commercial power and the generators at each station operated without incident. With the forecast of heavy rains, a two man crew was scheduled to rotate every four hours. This operations team checked the sewer pump stations to be sure they were operating properly. The township operations and police departments were notified of our plans and schedules. The sanitary sewer system experienced no overflows, no high well alarms or heavy flow during the storm event. In most easements we have many downed trees. The Authority operations team currently is working to open up access to these areas. We expect that clearing to be completed within the next week or two.

In summary, the authority's water and sanitary sewer operations team performed their jobs in a professional manner and should be commended for their effort. The public water system and sanitary sewer system performed as designed without incident or challenges to quality issues or capacity concerns. Both systems performed at 100% efficiency during the emergency situation. The Authority has calculated that we used 587 gallons of diesel fuel during the 3 day period. The authority also availed itself for any Northampton resident that had a private well that was inoperable to the loss of electrical power to fill personal containers at the authority administrative offices as a courtesy.

Mr. Zeuner gave a review of the agenda.

## **5. Citizens Concerns**

Mr. Jim stated that there is a signup sheet for Citizens Concerns available for anyone who wishes to address the Board.

Lynne Hamilton of Joshua Drive, expressed comments and concerns regarding the BCWSA rate increases over the years and suggested that Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal

Authority build their own treatment plant. Mr. Zeuner stated that the presentation being given by David Busch, will explain the rate increase in more detail. Mr. Rehm explained that it would be very difficult to get approval from DEP to build a new treatment plant.

## **6. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable**

A motion (Farling-Rehm) adopting a resolution to approve Revenue Fund Requisition No. **1987** dated October 17, 2012 in the amount of \$277,764.28, BRI No. **524** dated October 17, 2012 in the amount of \$134,481.42, Revenue Fund Requisition No. **1988** dated October 31, 2012 in the amount of \$97,401.06 and Revenue Fund Requisition No. **1989** dated November 7, 2012 in the amount of \$447,123.81 passed with 4 ayes.

The major items paid under Requisition No. **1987** are as follows: BCWSA Water - \$125,370.80; Eclipse Contracting LLC- \$6,645.00; HD Supply - \$1,926.35; J & J Auto - \$1,876.09;; Karl Hops Inc - \$1,732.50; Pennoni Assoc. - \$26,689.15; J H Shanahan - \$1,600.00; Teamsters Health and Welfare - \$ 16,029.26; USA Blue Book - \$ 1,100.61; Warminster Municipal Authority - \$17,117.12; and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer, Major items paid under Requisition No. **1988** are as follows: BCWSA – Sewer - \$341,280.90; Flow Assessment - \$4,900.00; Guardian - \$3,685.36; Hach Co. - \$3,755.16; The Hartford - \$1,882.83; Herbert Rowland & Grubic - \$3,665.39; Independence Blue Cross - \$12,565.82; J & J Auto - \$4,826.97; Karl Hops Inc. - \$1,552.40; Manko Gold Katcher & Fox - \$1,095.00; PECO - \$16,974.12; Siemens - \$4,673.89; Major items paid under Requisition No. **1989** are as follows: BCWSA - \$4,600.00; BCWSA – Sewer - \$309,955.60; Blue Flame Gas Service - \$1,097.55; J & J Auto - \$1,627.15; Karl Hops Inc. - \$2,127.88; PECO - \$3,332.95; Rudolph Clarke & Kirk LLC - \$36,136.06; Teamsters Health and Welfare - \$14,796.24; and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer.

## **7. Keystone Alliance Consulting – David Busch – Rate Study Analysis**

Mr. Busch of Keystone Alliance Consulting clarified the rate analysis for the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority presented at the last meeting, which included projections for the next 5 years. The Board had numerous questions that required clarification. The proposed rate increase for sanitary sewer was projected to be 25%. The proposed rate increase for water service was projected to be zero.

The Board directed the Executive Director to place this item on the next board agenda in order to receive public comment.

## **8. 5 Year Strategic Plan**

A motion (George – Jim) was made that the Board accept the plan as submitted for a Strategic 5 Year Plan passed with 4 ayes.

Mr. Zeuner state that the Plan would be posted on the Authority website for public viewing.

#### **9. 2012 Operational/Capital Budget**

Mr. Zeuner presented his Executive Summary regarding the Budget Narrative for Fiscal Year 2013 (November 1, 2012 through October 31, 2013). Mr. Zeuner explained that in order to give rate payers ample notification, the rate increase is effectively immediately but will not affect rate payers until the February 2013 billing.

Mr. Farling suggested we open the floor to public comment.

Jerry Bass of Keenan Lane expressed comments regarding whether other nearby county had rate increases by BCWSA.

Roger Bushnell expressed comments on whether the Authority can challenge rate increases.

Mr. Rudolph advised the Board not to speak to pending or possible litigation.

Mr. Mc Kelvy of 126 Barley Road expressed concerns regarding litigation costs.

Mr. Frank Rothermel commented on \$1.6 million dollar Woods Basin Project, Mr. Rudolph commented on the Woods Basin Project and provided clarity to Mr. Rothermels' claim. Mr. Zeuner confirmed no \$1.6 million dollar project has been expended to date. Mr. Zeuner reiterated that there is no \$1.6 million dollar project in the current capital budget or in the 5 Year Strategic Plan as currently claimed by Mr. Rothermel.

A motion (George-Farling) was made to approve the Operations and Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2013 as presented by the Executive Director amending sanitary sewer rates and the Authority's Fee Schedule with an effective date of November 1, 2012 and a billing date of February 1, 2013 passed with 4 Ayes.

#### **10. Liability Insurance/Workers Compensation: Broker of Record**

A motion (Farling-Jim) was made to approve Glatfelter Insurance as our Insurance Provider and further move that we appoint B. Bruce Beaton Co. Inc. as our Broker of Record for liability insurance and workers compensation for fiscal year 2013 passed with 4 Ayes.

#### **10. TCG Realty LP land Development Agreements**

Awaiting developers Agreements and Escrow monies, deferred until the next meeting.

#### **11. Contract No. 3-S-12 Sewer Main and Lateral Joint Grouting**

A motion (George - Jim) was made to reject all bids for Contract 3-S-12 opened on October

24, 2012 passed with 4 Ayes.

## **BOARD COMMENTS**

Mr. George inquired as to the cost associated with Hurricane Sandy to the Authority. Mr. Zeuner comment that there was overtime by our water and sewer technicians and a significant amount of diesel fuel used at well sites and pump stations to provide uninterrupted services to our ratepayers.

Mr. George asked Mr. Zeuner about a meeting he attended as a guest with the PA-DEP and Northampton Township. Mr. Zeuner confirmed DEP had concerns over ongoing communication issues related to the water project which Northampton Township has full oversight.

Mr. George asked Mr. Zeuner if the Township has been responsive to the Ordinance 396 issue. Mr. Zeuner confirmed to his knowledge, no action has been made by the Township. The Township has not been responsive to the issue as promised.

Mr. Farling provided positive comment of the work completed to reduce the overall cost of improvements anticipated for the Woods Basin.

Mr. Walker of Pennoni Assoc. gave an update on the three (3) projects: manhole rehabilitation, CIPP, and paving restoration.

**THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. JIM ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 9:20 P.M.**