

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on July 3, 2013

Members Attending: Antonio Albano, Chairman
Edward W. Farling III, Vice Chairman
Charles Rehm, Treasurer
John Jim, Secretary
Michelle Held, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Others Attending: Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director
Edward Rudolph, Solicitor
Christopher Walker, Engineer
Debra E. Wirtz, Stenographer/Executive Assistant

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Approval of the Minutes

A motion (Jim-Rehm) was made to approve the Minutes from May 1, 2013, passed with 4 Ayes, Chair abstained.

3. Executive Directors Report

NBCMA "GOING GREEN": The Authority will be honored to have Acting Secretary of the Department of Environmental Protection of Pennsylvania (PA DEP), Chris Abruzzo visiting the Northampton Bucks County Municipal Authority in a celebration of the recently completed 39,000 Watt Solar Energy Project. This project was a result of incentive funding facilitated by a "Sunshine" grant from the PA DEP. The official energizing of the system will be completed by Acting Secretary Abruzzo Wednesday, July 10, 2013 @ 9:30AM at the Authority's Solar Energy site. The Authority has also been informed that Regional Director, Cosmo Servidio will also be in attendance for the event. As executive director of the Authority, I am delighted that such high ranking environmental leaders of Pennsylvania visiting our Authority. It is a positive reflection on the Authority's mission, vision and principals.

"MUNICIPAL BID" Jet Truck: As the Board is aware the Authority listed our Jet truck for auction sale on "Municipal Bid". We had a minimum reserve of \$30,000.00. The highest bid we received was \$26,100.00. As executive director, I believe that we can obtain our desired \$30,000.00 minimum price. If the Board is in agreement, I would like the Board to pass a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sell the jet truck for a minimum price of \$30,000.00. If agreed to, Mr. Zeuner would market the vehicle for private sale in an attempt to achieve the value desired on the open market at this minimum price.

A motion (Albano-Rehm) was made authorizing the Executive Director to sell the jet truck at a minimum of \$30,000.00 passed with 5 Ayes.

AWWA: The Authority has received notice from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) informing us that discussions are underway in the Federal government that puts every aspect of the current U.S. tax code “on the table” for discussion. This includes the federal tax-exemption of municipal bond interest. Municipal bonds exemption from federal taxes has been the backbone of infrastructure project finance including this Authority for decades. The AWWA is urging the preservation of the current tax exclusion for municipal bond interest. They have asked members of the AWWA organization to write to its senators and house members supporting the preservation of the current tax exclusion for municipal bonds. Draft letter to our government leaders in the House and Senate have been provided for our consideration. As executive director, I am seeking Board endorsement to voice those concerns to our government leaders.

The Board directed Mr. Zeuner to write and send the above mentioned letters to government leaders.

STORM-WATER AUTHORITY BILL PASSED: Notice has been received that (SB 351) which amends the Municipality Authorities Act to allow the creation of storm-water authorities passed both the House and Senate this past week. The Bill passed 49-1. A identical companion House Bill (HB 821) passed 135-66 vote. Some House members expressed concerns over authorities being able to charge fees for storm-water management and the exercise of eminent domain procedures. The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association supported both bills and was successful in adding an amendment to protect existing authorities already engaged in some type of storm-water controls as part of managing combined or sanitary sewer overflows, or for flood control projects.

Mr. Rudolph stated that there a lot of questions needing to be answered and that this may take 2-3 years. The Board requested information to be sent to them for review.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORTS: Mr. Zeuner stated that the CCR (Consumer Confidence Reports) were sent to customers, copies were sent to the Township Building, Senior Center, Library and assisted living centers in the Township.

FISCAL YEAR BUDGET – Revenue is on target with budget. Sewer flows are up due to excessive rain in June, the staff is beginning the 2014 Budgeting Process.

4. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable

A motion (Rehm-Farling) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2005** dated June 19, 2013 in the amount of \$136,089.07, passed with 4 Ayes, Mr. Jim abstained

A motion (Rehm-Albano) adopting a resolution to approve **BRI Fund No. 534** dated June 19, 2013 in the amount of \$7,959.76 passed with 4 Ayes Mr. Jim abstained.

A motion (Rehm-Farling) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2006** dated July 3, 2013 in the amount of \$802,924.19 passed with 3 Ayes. Mr. Jim abstained.

A motion (Rehm-Farling) adopting a resolution to approve **BRI Fund Requisition No. 535** dated July 3, 2013 in the amount of \$3,253.22, passed with 4 Ayes. Mr. Jim abstained.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2005** are as follows: ABJ Sprinkler Co - \$9,100.00; Bank Direct Capital Fin. - \$2,918.80; Guardian - \$4,356.68; Ives Equip. - \$3,741.57; Karl Hops Inc- \$1,604.51; Nutech Control Products - \$1,915.40; Pennoni Assoc. - \$22,681.06; Quality Control Inc. - \$1,305.00; Teamsters Health & Welfare - \$12,828.60; and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2006** are as follows: Aqua Pro - \$5,420.00; BC Group - \$7,202.72; BCWSA – Water - \$231,691.32; BCWSA - Sewer - \$425,789.92; Bee Bergvall & Co. - \$1,000.00; W. Bruce Beaton Co. - \$7,314.00; Barbara Bucknum Tax Collector - \$1,852.64; Custom Care Property Maintenance. - \$3,250.00; Ellen Distefano - \$2,850.00; Flow Assessment - \$4,900.00; Independence Blue Cross - \$11,703.64; Karl Hops Inc- \$1,235.29; Northampton Township - \$1,141.15; PECO - \$13,064.13; Rudolph Clarke & Kirk LLC - \$18,537.90; JH Shanahan - \$2,881.00; TD Card Services - \$2,020.03 and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer.

5. Citizens Concerns

Bernice Chandler, 18 Meredith Drive had questions regarding the Solar Panel profits, Mr. Albano stated that the projected savings is a 20% reduction in energy cost on the parcel know as Well 17.

Mr. Roger Bushnell, 91 Hunt Drive had comments regarding the savings due to the Solar Panels, Mr. Albano's comments in the Courier Times regarding the Solar Panels.

Mr. Bill O'Neill, Rocksville Road had comments and concerns on the following topics; the Solar Panels costs, the installation of the panels, the amount of sunlight in this area, his opinion that the Solar Panels should be taken down, does not want Authority to get involved in storm water management, and the inspection of wells in the West End.

Jerry Bass, Keenan Lane, had comments regarding the Solar Panels, Mr. Bass read portions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 Public Law 109-58 regarding renewable energy and use of tax payer money.

Donald George, Watergate Drive had comments regarding the Authority becoming involved with storm water management, he is against any involvement. Mr. George also provided comments on the suggestion of others regarding the use of tarps and diesel generators in lieu of the Solar Panels.

6. Maintenance Report - April 2013

Mr. Zeuner provided highlights to the April Maintenance Report.

7. Resolution 2013-1146 - Refinance of Note with First National Bank of Newtown

A motion (Albano – Rehm) was made adopting a Resolution 2013-1146 approving and authorizing the execution and delivery of a Note Modification Agreement between the Authority and the First National Bank and Trust Company of Newtown, authorizing the execution and delivery of all additional documentation required in connection with said Note Modification Agreement; ratifying and confirming prior acts by proper officers of the Authority; and authorizing and directing other related matters passed with 5 Ayes.

8. Resolution No. 2013-1145 – Revising “Fee Schedule”: Attached as Exhibit “A” to its Rates, Rules and Regulations.

A motion (Held-Albano) was made to adopt Resolution No. 2013-1145 revising the Authority’s “Fee Schedule”, to state “the price shall not exceed” attached as Exhibit “A: to its Rates, Rules and Regulations for water meters setters & boxes, and further direct the Executive Director make a resolution next month to revise our Specifications passed with 5 Ayes.

9. Resolution No. 2013-1144 – Destruction of Records

A motion (Albano-Farling) was made that the Board adopt Resolution No. 2013-1144 (with change noted on line 8, Bank Statements) pursuant to Resolution No. 370 allowing the Destruction of Records in accordance with the Municipal Records Act, 53 P.S. 9001, et seq. passed with 5 Ayes.

10. Acceptance of Dedication from Northampton – West End Water Infrastructure

This item will be continued to our next meeting. Acceptance is not possible due to outstanding issues.

11. Tri-Party Agreement TMP#48-023-005 Metro Impact LLC

A motion (Albano-Rehm) was to approve the Tri-Party Agreement between the property owner/s of TMP#48-028-005 located at 1064 Bristol Road, Upper Southampton Water and Sewer Authority and the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority for public sewer services passed with 5 Ayes.

13. Board Comments

The Board had no comments.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. ALBANO ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:33 P.M.