

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on February 4, 2015

Members Attending: Edward Farling III, Chairman
Vincent Deon, Vice Chairman
Michelle Held, Treasurer
John T. Jim, Secretary
Charles Rehm, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer - absent

Others Attending: Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director
Edward Rudolph, Esquire, Solicitor
Noah Marlier, Esquire, Solicitor
Christopher Walker P.E., Pennoni Assoc.
Eileen Silver, Northampton Township Liaison
Debra Wirtz, Executive Assistant

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Zeuner gave an update on the following topics:

BCWSA Symposium: The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority is holding an I & I Symposium on Thursday, February 5, 2015. The program will highlight way of identifying I & I, tracking and repairing methods. The Authority administration and professionals will be attending the session.

Safety Training 2015: Jeff Greenwood (Chief of Operations) is leading the 2015 Authority Safety Committee. Two representatives from administration and two members from the operations team are participants.

Upper Southampton Sewer Authority: The manager of Upper Southampton Authority and Mr. Zeuner are discussing Upper Southampton's desire to amend our sanitary sewer contract. Currently we pay for services based upon an equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) calculation. They desire to charge the Authority based upon metered flow. There are technical and financial issues that will need to be resolved in order to facilitate any change.

Sanitary Sewer Inflow and Infiltration Task Team: The 6 member team consists of two (2) administrative, two (2) professional engineering, and two (2) operation sanitary sewer technicians. The team is meeting every two weeks to address our short and long range needs in order to establish what priorities, resources and finances will be required to meet environmental and contractual expectations.

BCWSA / Supplemental Agreement: Through our environmental counsel, Manko Gold Katcher & Fox discussions have been initiated regarding the Supplemental Agreement as required by the settlement agreement between BCWSA and PA DEP. Ratification is required by the end of March 2015.

WEF-Water Environment Federation: A conference is being held on April 19-21 in Cincinnati Ohio by the Water Environment Federation. The workshop is targeted for both experienced and inexperienced participants who would like to learn or further their knowledge on establishing and progressing their I & I reduction programs, choosing effective strategies, setting realistic expectations, public vs private I & I sources, assessing effectiveness of pre and post sewer rehabilitation assessment efforts, and adaptively managing/sustaining long-term sewer rehabilitation efforts for I & I reduction.

3. Citizens' Concerns

No citizen's wished to address the Board

4. Approval of the Minutes of January 7, 2015

A motion (Jim-Farling) made to approve the Minutes of January 7, 2015 passed with 4 ayes.

5. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable

A motion (Held-Jim) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2047** dated January 21, 2015 in the amount of \$154,954.84 passed with 4 ayes.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2047** are as follows: B. Bergvall & Co. \$5,500.00; W Bruce Beaton Co. - \$8,515.00; Flow Assessment - \$9,800.00; Golden Equip. - \$1,012.17; Herbert, Rowland & Grubic - \$5,699.45; Independence Blue Cross - \$11,588.17; Line Systems - \$1,014.92; PECCO - \$2,387.01; Ricks Tree Serv. - \$3,500.00; JH Shanahan Inc. - \$1,510.00 USA Bluebook - \$1,045.93; Warminster Municipal Authority - \$22,705.63 and a \$70,000.00 transfer for payroll.

A motion (Held-Farling) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2048** dated February 4, 2015 in the amount of \$887,559.88 passed with 4 ayes.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2048** are as follows: BCWSA - Tapping Fees - \$4,600.00; BCWSA - Sewer - \$428,523.44; BCWSA - Water - \$209,599.20; W. Bruce Beaton Co. - \$7,307.00; Ellen Distefano - \$3,000.00; Gayle Corp. - \$2,277.70; Guardian - \$3,307.66; Harris Comp. Systems - \$1,500.00; Maxsolar Energy - \$3,295.99; MNOP INC. - \$14,702.00; PECCO - \$17,325.39; Pennoni Assoc. - \$30,684.08; Rudolph Clarke LLC - \$17,308.41; Wilmington Trust - \$3,120.00 and a \$70,000.00 transfer for payroll.

6. Chapter 94 Report

A motion (Jim-Farling) made to authorize the Executive Director to engage the professional services of Pennoni Associates to prepare the Authority's 2014 Chapter 94 Wasteload Annual Report at the same price as last year passed with 4 Ayes.

7. Hydrogeological Report

A motion (Farling-Jim) made that the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority Board authorize the Executive Director to engage the professional services of Pennoni Associates to prepare the Authority's annual Hydrogeological Report at the same price as last year passed with 4 ayes.

8. Authorization to Prepare Bid Package - CP-2015-W-2 Variable Frequency Drives

A motion (Farling-Jim) made that the Northampton Bucks County, Municipal Authority Board approve the authorization of the Administration and Pennoni Assoc. to prepare bid packets for Capital Project, CP-2015-W-12, Variable Frequency Drives and authorize the advertising of this competitive bid project on PennBid passed with 4 ayes.

9. Lateral Camera - CP-2015-S-4

A motion (Jim-Farling) made that the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority Board award Contract CP-2015-S-4 (Lateral Camera) to L/B Water Service Inc. of Ephrata, PA as the lowest responsible bidder in the amount of \$8,137.10 passed with 4 ayes

10. Release of Escrow - MNOP "Willow Estates"

A motion (Farling-Jim) made that the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority Board approve the cash escrow release for the Willow Estates Subdivision in the amount of \$14,702.00 for sanitary sewer and water improvements associated with the project passed with 4 ayes.

Mr. Farling noted that the Board met in Executive Session to discuss matters of litigation and stated that there will be a workshop on February 24th with Herbert Rowland and Grubic to discuss sanitary sewer rates charged to the Authority. Noting also that Mr. Rehm is recovering from surgery and wished him a speedy recovery.

BOARD COMMENTS

Ms. Held - Noted that Northampton Days is getting a new a new website, and hoped to see Mr. Rehm soon.

Christopher Walker - Pennoni Assoc. gave update on the following projects;

- G.I.S. data is being collected for the next few months
- Pennoni would like to put an article in their next Pennoni Perspective regarding the G.I.S. project
- The Authority is out to bid for the annual sewer grouting, estimated at \$200,000.00 bids will be opened on 2/25/15
- TCG Land Development has provided the required As-Builts, they have been reviewed by Pennoni and Mr. Zeuner, we recommend that the 3 Letters of Credit be reduced, sewer by \$1900.00, water by \$2500.00 and As Builts by \$5000.00 totaling \$9400.00

A motion (Deon-Jim) was made to reduce the Letters of Credit with Fulton Bank for TCG Realty, LP in the amount of \$9400.00 in accordance with recommendation letter from Christopher Walker - Pennoni Associated dated February 4, 2015.

Edward Rudolph – Solicitor, outlined a list of concerns with regard to BCWSA;

- Disputes related to payments required from either party to the other pursuant to the existing water contract.
- Disputes related to the rates, charges and methodologies on sanitary sewer services provided by Bucks to Northampton.
- Technical (“Engineering and Operational”) issues related to providing water service by Bucks to Northampton, resulting from the change in the source of supply.
- Consideration of anticipated Township development projects not currently indicated in the Bucks Connection Management Plan (“CMP”).
- Water charges related to reduce availability of water (9 day period).

Mr. Rudolph advised the Board that Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority is amendable to a “moratorium” on any litigation related to the ongoing disputes between Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority and the Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority as it relates to sanitary sewer charges and public water charges. The moratorium will be for a period of approximately six (6) months and during the period of the moratorium, the parties will engage in good faith efforts to resolve the disagreements. If progress is being made with respect to resolving the disagreements between the parties, the parties would be amenable to extending the moratorium for such additional period as is reasonable. All parties recognize that the expenses of litigation would be better spent elsewhere. No objection was voiced by the Board.

Ms. Eileen Silver – Northampton Liaison, informed the Board that the Township will be cleaning up an area at Tanyard and Second Street Pike, to make a park called the Iron Creek Park. She stated she wanted the Authority to know since there are Authority pipes in the area.

Ms. Held encouraged everyone to participate “Adopt a Fire Hydrant” on the Township website.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS TO DISCUSS, MR. FARLING ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.