

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on June 5, 2019

Board Members: Edward Farling III, Chairman
Stephen Mc Gill, Vice Chairman
John T. Jim, Secretary - absent
Charles Rehm, Treasurer
Vincent Deon, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Others: Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director
Edward Rudolph, Esquire, Solicitor
Christopher Walker P.E., Pennoni Assoc.
Frank O'Donnell, Northampton Supervisor Liaison
Debra Wirtz – Executive Assistant

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Farling, lead the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence for men and women serving in harm's way.

2. Citizens' Concerns

None

3. Executive Director's Report

WATER METER HEAD REPLACEMENT PROGRAM - We are replacing meter heads throughout the system as their batteries are reaching or approaching useful life expectations. The Authority administration and operations teams are getting numerous calls about adjusted billing due to estimated readings and reconciliation of usage once actual reading are obtained. It is my expectation that this will be an ongoing dialog with ratepayers as more meters are upgraded to the most recent technology. Jeff Greenwood our Chief of Operations is fielding most of the customer challenges to the adjusted readings once meters and or meter heads are changed.

ACT 537 PLAN NORTHAMPTON TOWNSHIP - The Authority is getting numerous inquiries for public sanitary sewer service. We are currently continuing to make a list but cannot act of these requests due to PA DEP has not approved Northampton Township most recent submission to their 537 Plan. Bob Pellegrino, (Northampton Township Manager) indicated that the township is hoping for a favorable response from the regulatory agency in the near future.

SUMP PUMP CONNECTED TO THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM – In the next week the Authority will be sending out letters to 688 property owners in the Upper Southampton basin and 60+/- properties in Holland. These regions have demonstrated very high sanitary sewer flows during period of heavy rains and high ground water saturation. We suspect that basement sump pumps may be significantly impacting our sanitary sewer flows during these periods. Accompanying the letter is a Q & A information sheet to help educate the public on the issue of concern and seek their cooperation in achieving an environmentally responsible solution.

NEW FINAL CERTIFICATION PROCEDURE IMPLEMENTATION- On June 1st the Authority implemented the amended final certification process for real estate transfers. On May 27, 2019 the Suburban Realtors® Alliance (SRA) a subsidiary corporation of the Bucks, Montgomery County and Suburban West Associates of REALTORS®, published our announcement in their monthly newsletter. The alliance is a resource for members, local governments and elected officials and consumers. Their announcement read as follows:

“New public water, sanitary sewer inspection requirements in Northampton”

The Northampton Municipal Authority has made amendments to its rates, rules and regulations regarding fees and certifications for public water and sanitary sewer. The Authority adopted Resolution No. 2019-1219, regarding access to customer property to determine compliance with Northampton Township Ordinance No. 492 about unlawful connections, such as sump sumps, roof leaders, and ground and floor drains that are connected to the public sanitary sewer system. The inspection and fee changes take effect on June 1. The following link will provide the details of their announcement:

[https://nbcmatoday.org/uploads/Effective%206-1-19 Water%20Sewer%20Certification%20Request%20Form%202019.pdf](https://nbcmatoday.org/uploads/Effective%206-1-19%20Water%20Sewer%20Certification%20Request%20Form%202019.pdf)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VACATION – The Executive Director will be on vacation for a period in July. During that period Jeff Greenwood will be in charge of Authority management. The Executive Director (although on vacation) will be readily available to discuss any and all matters with the Board or staff as in this day of cells phone, e-mails and internet one is never really separated from the workings of the Authority. Mr. Zeuner stated that he will be available 24/7 for phone or e-mail communications.

PMMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE – The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA) Annual Conference and Exhibition is being held at the Kalahari Resorts and Convention Center in the Pocono Mountains September 8th – 11th. Reservation are rapidly filling for this event. If any Board members desires to attend the event you should inform Debra Wirtz by the end of this week to ensure adequate accommodations.

4. Approval of the Minutes of May 1, 2019

A motion (McGill-Rehm) made to approve the Minutes of May 1, 2019 passed with 4 ayes.

5. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable

A motion (Rehm-McGill) approving the following Requisition/s passed 4 with ayes.

Requisition No. 2173 dated 05/15/19 in the amount of \$429,361.85

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2173** are as follows: BCWSA - \$4,600.00; BCWSA - Water - \$162,525.86; GMG Insurance Agency - \$2,500.00; Herbert Rowland & Grubic - \$6,149.96; Independence Blue Cross - \$10,392.10; Karl Hops Inc. - \$1,138.62; LB Water Service - \$1,703.13; Link Computer Corp. - \$3,620.51; M.J. Reider Assoc. - \$1,213.00; PECO - \$20,310.87; Pennoni Assoc. Inc. - \$25,024.39; RIO Supply Inc. - \$19,009.20; Rudolph Clarke LLC - \$61,822.72; Teamster Health & Welfare Fund - \$17,677.55; Upper Southampton Post Office - \$5,000.00; USA Blue Book - \$1,338.10; Verizon - \$1,007.08; and \$75,000.00 for payroll.

Requisition No. 2174 dated 05/22/19 in the amount of \$496,597.87

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2174** are as follows: First National Bank of Newtown - \$421,597.87; and \$75,000.00 for payroll.

Requisition No. 2175 dated 06/05/19 in the amount of \$882,542.26

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2175** are as follows: BCWSA – \$69,000.00; BCWSA – Sewer - \$600,155.09; Bergey Creative Group - \$1,243.20; CSL Services Inc. - \$6,700.00; Electri-Tech Inc. - \$8,702.74; First National Bank of Newtown - \$59,129.38; George Thompson - \$2,300.00; Guardian - \$3,796.69; Hach Co. - \$1,153.00; Karl Hops Inc. - \$2,256.52; Link Computer Corp. - \$3,620.51; M & M Lawncare East Inc. - \$2,310.00; M.J. Reider Assoc. - \$2,478.00; Office Basics - \$1,080.14; PECO - \$12,808.53; RIO Supply Inc. - \$13,883.50; Servpro - \$2,425.06; Verizon - \$1,005.32; William Lever - \$3,071.56; Coyne Chemical - \$1,085.92; and \$75,000.00 for payroll.

6. Award Contract 1-S-19 – C.I.P.P.

A motion (Farling-Deon) made a motion to award Contract 1-S-19 dated May 29, 2019 to Mr. Rehab Inc. in the amount of \$142,885.03 passed with 4 ayes.

7. Extension of Maintenance Bond – GS Developers - Sodium Hypochlorite Project

The Contractor has agreed to the extension of the Maintenance Bond, no motion was needed.

8. Administrative Health Care Renewal

A motion (Deon-McGill) made to approve the administrative health care renewal as shown in Proposal No. 721701 from Brokers Network, with the health care provider being Independence Blue Cross with a renewal period of August 1, 2019 and authorized the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Board passed with 4 ayes.

9. Administrative HSA Contribution

A motion (McGill-Rehm) made to approve the deposits into administrative health care savings accounts (HSA) a completed in the past with no change in contribution rate as summarized in the memorandum authored by the Executive Director dated June 3, 2019. The funding of the HSA's should be transferred in time to ensure employee accessibility to the funds at the beginning of the healthcare renewal passed with 4 ayes.

COMMENTS:

Edward Rudolph, Esq., noted that at the July meeting the Spring Mill Townhouse Development and Warminster MUA will be addressed.

Christopher Walker, Pennoni Assoc. Inc., provided an update on bids on the Navy Cooperative Agreements.

Steve McGill, commented on the amount of misinformation on social media regarding water/sewer systems. Mr. Zeuner commented that the Authority keeps detailed logs of complaints on customer accounts, so that the information can be reviewed at any time.

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Farling adjourned the Board Meeting at 7:49 p.m.