

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

**Minutes of the Public Meeting held on November 6, 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. Mr. Albano stated that the Board met in executive session for about 10 minutes to discuss personnel matters, 15 minutes to discuss legal matters pertaining to Mascara et. al. litigation and also regarding the DEP Consent Order Settlement and Agreement.

**2. Approval of the Minutes**

A motion (Farling-Rehm) was made to approve the Minutes from October 27, 2013, passed with 5 Ayes.

**3. Executive Directors Report**

**DEP Consent Order and Agreement:** Mr. Zeuner summarized the Consent Order and Settlement Agreement (COA) between the Authority and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection related to the historic sanitary sewer overflows reported by the Authority to the regulatory agency. Mr. Zeuner noted that the Agreement and payment of the funds for settlement as agreed to by all parties is to the Bucks County Conservation District for streambank improvements along the Pine Run Creek near Stevens Lane.

**2014 Budget:** An overview of the proposed Operations and Capital Budget dated October 28, 2013 was provided by the Executive Director to the Board for review.

## **Appointment of Auditor for the next 3 years.**

This items was tabled at the last meeting as the request of the Board to obtain additional proposals.

### **4. Citizens' Concerns**

Residents of the Hollyknoll Drive and Magnolia Drive areas were in attendance to voice concerns regarding a home in their area (located on Hollyknoll Drive) where there is a health concern regarding human waste be disposed of in their backyard and the potential contamination of neighboring wells. Mr. Zeuner advised the residents that he will meet with the proper officials and report back to them via email which the residents provided.

Ms. Margaret Coleman of Magnolia Drive had comments and concerns regarding sewer only customers and water and sewer customers billing. Mr. Zeuner explained the option of having a well metered for billing purposes.

Mr. Alfred Walter of Hollyknoll Drive had comments regarding the use of soaker hoses and the cost of sewer if he has a meter is place on his well for billing purposes.

Mr. Tony Gryszka Jr. of Magnolia Drive had comments and concerns regarding billing of water and sewer customers vs. sewer only customers, and comments regarding the home on Hollyknoll Drive. Mr. Zeuner explained that he would make the appropriate contacts to numerous agencies in an attempt to obtain a satisfactory a resolution to the matter.

Mr. James Heflin of Hollyknoll Drive had comments regarding the availability of the Authority's minutes, financial information regarding the rate study done by Keystone Alliance, and audit reports. Mr. Zeuner explained that the minutes and financial information are available on our website, the Keystone Alliance study is available for viewing at the Authority. Should he wish additional information or further discussion, Mr. Heflin should schedule a meeting with Mr. Zeuner during Authority hours.

Mr. Bob Bracco of Magnolia Drive asked for clarification on the metering of wells.

Ms. Margaret Coleman stated that the Township Police are aware of issues at the home on Hollyknoll Drive. An officer with Northampton had witnessed the dumping, also the Corporation on Ageing has been made aware of the situation. Mr. Zeuner and Mr. Rudolph stated that we will advocate for the residents.

Email addresses were provided so Mr. Zeuner could inform those residents of Mr. Zeuner's findings.

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

A motion (Rehm-Jim) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2013** dated October 16, 2013 in the amount of \$133,415.33, passed with 5 Ayes.

A motion (Rehm-Farling) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2014** dated October 31, 2013 in the amount of \$697,488.84 passed with 5 Ayes.

A motion (Rehm-Jim) adopting a resolution to approve **Revenue Fund Requisition No. 2015** in the amount of \$31,350.23 passed with 5 Ayes.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2013** are as follows: BCWSA Tapping - \$6,900.00; Karl Hops Inc. - \$1,129.98; Manko Gold Katcher & Fox \$3,811.00; PECO - \$1,084.01; J H Shanahan Inc. - \$1,690.00; Teamsters Health & Welfare - \$12,828.60; Warminster Municipal Auth. - \$18,459.38 and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2014** are as follows: BCWSA Tapping - \$4,600.00; BCWSA - Sewer - \$328,612.72; BCWSA - Water - \$175,570.72; Chet's Printing - \$4,780.00; CSI - \$3,200.18; Ellen Distefano - \$2,625.00; Guardian - \$3,169.51; Independence Blue Cross - \$11,704.36; J & J Auto - \$2,808.83; Manko Gold Katcher & Fox - \$2,527.00; PECO - \$14,138.16; and a \$70,000.00 payroll transfer.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2015** are as follows: Flow Assessment - \$4,900.00; PECO - \$1,074.50; Rudolph, Clarke & Kirk LLC - \$22,002.25.

## **6. Maintenance Report – July 2013**

Mr. Zeuner provided highlights to the July Maintenance Report.

## **7. 2014 Budget**

The Executive Director provided a verbal overview of the proposed Operational and Capital Budgets for the fiscal year 2014, and a summary of unaudited financial results through September for fiscal year 2013.

The planned 2014 initiatives presented were "*Ease to do business with and I & I Abatement*"

A motion (Albano-Rehm) to table this agenda item to the November 20, 2013 public meeting in order to allow the Board sufficient time to review the Proposed Capital and Operational Budget for 2014 passed with 5 Ayes.

### **Resident comments**

Mr. James Heflin, Hollyknoll Drive provided comment on public documents, sewer charges for sewer only customers, audited financial statements and requested a meeting Executive Director Zeuner.

Mr. Roger Bushnell, Hunt Drive provided comments on the BCWSA sewer charges to NBCMA. Mr. Rudolph provided a response regarding the status of the issue in order to determine appropriate rates.

**8. Appointment of Auditor**

A motion (Albano-Farling) was made to accept the Three Year Engagement Letter from Bee Bergvall & Co. dated August 22, 2013 for the Authority's annual financial audit services passed with 5 Ayes.

**9. DEP Consent Order and Agreement**

Mr. Zeuner gave a summary of the Consent Order and Agreement and an explanation of the monies to be used in Northampton at the Pine Run Creek streambank.

A motion (Albano-Rehm) was made to approve the Consent Order and Agreement between the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection dated November 6, 2013 and hereby approve the payment of funds in the amount of \$61,000.00 to the Bucks County Conservation District by approval of Authority Requisition No. 2016 and authorize the Executive Director to sign the Agreement on behalf of the Board passed with 5 Ayes.

**10. Board Comments**

None

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