

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on June 2, 2021

Board Members: Edward Farling III, Chairman
Stephen McGill, Vice Chairman
Francis O'Donnell, Secretary
Charles Rehm, Treasurer
Vincent Deon, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Others: Thomas A. Zeuner, Executive Director
Edward Rudolph, Esq., Rudolph Clarke LLC
Christopher Walker P.E., Pennoni Assoc., - excused
Jeffrey Greenwood, Chief of Operations
Robert Tagert, Chief Technical Director
Debra Wirtz, Executive Assistant

Mr. Farling, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Pledge of Allegiance

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

2. Executive Director's Report

SB-597

On May 25, 2021, the Pennsylvania Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee reported out legislation pushed by privately-owned water/ wastewater companies to set-up publicly owned systems for easier takeover by private systems. The bill was changed in Committee with a gut and replacement amendment to move the entire contents of the bill to Title 66 related to the Public Utility Commission. The legislation was vigorously opposed by the Pennsylvania Rural Water Association, the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, the Water Works Operators' Association of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, the Pennsylvania State Association of Boroughs, and the Pennsylvania Municipal League. It should be noted that not one industry sector association in the Commonwealth voiced support for the Senate bill, only vigorous opposition.

Senate Bill 597 places community water and sewer systems under additional regulations that are enforced by Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC). Senate Bill 597 has language requiring community water and wastewater systems develop an asset management plan and other distribution system requirements that go beyond the requirements of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) and may even result in conflicting requirements with the SDWA, and the federal funding associated with it.

Additionally, Senate Bill 597 places enforcement of The Water Quality Accountability Act under the Public Utilities Commission, effectively placing water and wastewater system operation and maintenance under two different state regulatory agencies. This will create conflicts and overreach with no significant gains to systems or the general public.

If the intent of Senate Bill 597 was to mandate the development of asset management plans for water and wastewater providers, that can be embraced because it demonstrates “Best Management Practices”. The true underlying intent of the bill is to provide a pathway for the privatization of water and wastewater systems in the Commonwealth under the PUC to the benefit of shareholders of the publicly traded companies not ratepayers that will be adversely impacted by big government and increased rates.

UPPER HOLLAND ROAD - Electrical Issue

It has come to our attention that our facility at Upper Holland Road has some serious electrical problems. Since repair and immediate rehabilitation of the system may exceed the bid thresholds, resulting in an increased time period to bid and provide the repairs. Since this is an immediate safety issue, I am seeking from the Board approval for an “Emergency Declaration” to facilitate immediate corrective action.

The firm we engaged to investigate, identify the problem and preferred contractor to correct the problem is:

G & G Electrical Construction LLC
1602 William Leigh Drive
Tullytown, PA 19007

The Authority has used this firm for electrical work on several occasions and are very satisfied with their work. Robert Tagert will oversee the work being done.

INCOMING CALL PROCESSING DISCUSSION:

Steve McGill initiated discussion on metrics of performance for customer service and activities. After Board discussion, Mr. Zeuner stated he would provide an update on the metrics of performance to the Board at the July public meeting.

LAUREL ROAD SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT

The PUBLIC BIDS will be electronically opened on June 16, 2021, at 2:00 PM.

3. Citizens' Concerns

None

4. RESOLUTION 2021-1244 - UPPER HOLLAND ROAD - EMERGENCY DECLARATION - ELECTRICAL ISSUE

The suggested Motion was authored by our Solicitor

A motion (McGill-Farling) made to approve and adopt Resolution #2021-1244 as follows:

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Authority's maintenance facility on Upper Holland Road has serious electrical issues which cause an imminent danger to the Authority's personnel and property; and

WHEREAS, the electrical issues constitute an emergency condition, as referenced in section 5614(d) of the Municipal Authorities Act, whereby allowing for a waiver of public notice and advertising for a third-party contractor to perform such work so as to remedy the emergency electrical issues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Authority declares the above electrical issues an emergency, requiring prompt action for reasons set forth above; and

G & G Electrical Construction, LLC, located at 1602 William Leigh Drive, Tullytown PA is directed to perform such electrical work at the above Authority facility as the Executive Director of the Authority shall deem appropriate, to correct any electrical issues as may be required; and all such work shall be in compliance with all applicable laws of the State and Township of Northampton

APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 2nd day of June 2021.

The motion passed with 5 ayes.

5. Approval of the Minutes of May 5, 2021

A motion (McGill-Rehm) made to approve the Minutes of May 5, 2021, passed with 4 ayes, Mr. Deon abstained.

6. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable

A motion (Rehm-McGill) adopting the following resolutions passed 5 with ayes.

Requisition No. 2226 dated 05/19/2021 in the amount of \$460,275.41

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2226** are as follows: B. Carman - \$1,407.54; BCWSA – \$2,300.00; BCWSA – Water - \$195,572.05; CSL Services Inc. - \$6,775.00; Independence Blue Cross - \$14,097.09; JH Shanahan - \$8,801.00; Karl Hops Inc. - \$1,345.07; Keystone Eng. - \$3,200.00; Office Basics - \$1,741.88; PECO - \$16,386.53; Pennoni Assoc. Inc. - \$56,769.23; Philadelphia Business Forms - \$1,758.62; Rudolph Clarke LLC - \$25,347.50; Steven Catalano - \$2,501.60; Teamsters Health & Welfare Fund - \$19,284.60; Technical Devices Inc. - \$3,900.00; Toner Homes of Northampton - \$18,290.76 and \$75,000.00 for payroll.

Requisition No. 2227 dated 06/02/2021 in the amount of \$820,593.48

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2227** are as follows: BCWSA – Sewer - \$513,151.28; Coyne Chemical - \$2,046.00; Danica Consulting - \$2,145.00; Evoqua Water Technologies - \$6,468.00; First National Bank of Newtown - \$59,129.38; GMG Insurance Agency - \$2,500.00; Guardian - \$4,042.18; Karl Hops Inc. - \$2,024.89; Mr. Rehab LLC - \$83,509.11; Passerini & Sons Inc. - \$22,216.70; Pendergast Safety Equip. - \$2,138.38; RIO Supply Inc. - \$36,691.65; Verizon - \$1,964.70; and \$75,000.00 for payroll.

7. Administration Health Care Coverage Renewal

A motion (O'Donnell-McGill) made to approve the administrative health care renewal for participating non-union members, under Account #821701 with Brokers Network with the health care provider being Independence Blue Cross in accordance with the documents provided and with a renewal period of August 1, 2021, and also, authorized the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Board, passed with 5 ayes.

8. Administrative Health Saving Account Contribution

A motion (Farling-McGill) made to approve the annual HSA deposits into administrative Health Care Savings Accounts (HSA) as completed in the past with no change in contribution rate by the Authority as summarized in the memorandum authored by the Executive Director dated June 1, 2021. 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 5 ayes

9. Guardian Group Insurance Plan

A motion (McGill-O'Donnell) made to approve the Guardian Insurance Group Plan #0480035 in accordance with their proposal for renewal period August 1, 2021 – July 31, 2022, and hereby authorize the Executive Director to sign on behalf of the Board, passed with 5 ayes.

Comments

None

There being no further business Chairman Farling adjourned the meeting at 7:32 P.M.