

Northampton, Bucks County, Municipal Authority

Minutes of the Public Meeting held on August 3, 2022

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

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

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

1. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Deon lead the Pledge of Allegiance and requested a moment of silence for our men and women serving in harm's way and our thoughts for the family of Sheila Bass former long term Board Member who passed away after a short illness. Mr. Deon welcomed back Steve McGill after a hospital stay.

2. Executive Director's Report

2022 Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project

The Northampton Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation Project for 2022 is progressing. Many of the sanitary sewer lines identified in the project have been rehabilitated by the "Cured in Place" methodology. Pennoni Associates is our project manager and inspector for the project

SB 597 (SENATE BILL 597)

On Tuesday, August 2nd, Mr. Zeuner had the opportunity to provide public testimony at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Capital to the House Environmental Resources and Energy Committee Informational Meeting on SB 597 Printers Number 1714. Mr. Zeuner testified on behalf of the Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association. The intent of this legislation is to pave the way for increased privatization of water and sewer utilities. Authority leaders are already focused on asset management as well as a myriad of other important issues facing our industry today. Authorities are, by their nature and structure, dedicated to ensuring the best interests of the community are served. We believe adding unnecessary layers of oversight, driving costs and rates higher, as well as implementing a "one-size-fits-all" approach will have the intended result – some authorities will struggle to meet this unworkable requirement, forcing more systems into privatization and removing local control of these vital public assets.

NASSCO CERTIFICATION

This past week nine (9) of the Authority's operation team members were recertified by NASSCO. NASSCO is the recognized accreditation program in the United States for sanitary sewer systems.

TANK MIXERS – Storage facilities

The tanks mixers for the tank at Upper Holland Road and the Spring Garden tank adjacent to the High school and the two tanks on Second Street Pike are complete with only the Tank located in the Industrial Park to be completed. We expect the project to be completed in early fall. That will complete our 2022 initiative on improving the quality of our water storage facilities as planned in our Capital Budget.

2023 Budget- Operational and Capital

As the Authority is on fiscal year November 1st to October 31st, our budget process is beginning. There is no planned rate increase for public water or wastewater being proposed in the budget. The last time NBCMA had a rate increase to our customers was 2017.

3. Citizens' Concerns

None

4. Approval of the Minutes of July 6, 2022

A motion (O'Donnell-Farling) to approve the Minutes of July 6, 2022, with 4 ayes Mr. McGill abstained.

5. Check Requisitions / Accounts Payable

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

Requisition No. 2260 dated 07/20/2022 in the amount of \$421,339.88.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2260** are as follows: Aflac – 41,017.90; BCWSA - \$4,600.00; BCWSA – Water - \$179,252.74; CSL Services Inc. - \$6,550.00; Hach Co. - \$3,689.40; Hajoca Corp. - \$14,899.70; JH Shanahan - \$8,486.00; Link Computer Corp. - \$3,993.98; Neal Systems Inc. - \$4,872.00; Office Basics - \$1,276.55; Pennoni Assoc. Inc. - \$61,706.22; Rudolph Clarke LLC - \$9,105.00; Teamsters Health & Welfare Fund - \$17,677.52; Timmons & Co. - \$1,416.00; USPS - \$7,500.000; Vincent Deon, Tax Collector and \$85,000.00 for payroll.

Requisition No. 2261 dated 08/03/2022 in the amount of \$754,548.95.

The major items paid under **Requisition No. 2261** are as follows: A. C. Schultes, Inc. - \$29,140.00; BCWSA - Sewer - \$375,408.60; Coyne Chemical - \$1,192.00; Cues - \$1,090.30; Exeter Supply Co. Inc. - \$68,152.18; First National Bank of Newtown - \$59,129.38; Guardian - \$4,209.13; Independence Blue Cross - \$13,062.47; JH Shanahan - \$25,678.00; Karl Hops Inc. - \$4,491.46; Keystone Engineering - \$3,960.00; M.J. Reider Assoc. - \$2,154.35; Mark-A-Hydrant LLC - \$5,348.00 – Northampton Township - \$5,365.36; Phila Business Forms. - \$1,570.00; PMAA – \$2,404.00; Steve's Complete Collision - \$3,766.31; Sunbelt Rentals - \$1,666.28; Timmons & Co. - \$12,703.51; Upper Southampton MUA - \$40,092.44; Verizon - \$1,183.84 and \$85,000.00 for payroll.

6. BCWSA Acquisition Offer by AQUA

There was significant and open discussion between Board members, staff and professionals regarding the proposed privatization of the Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority's (Bucks Authority) sanitary sewer system to Aqua Pennsylvania. The (Bucks Authority) has been offered \$1.1 billion dollars for their sanitary sewer system. The Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority has entered into an exclusive agreement with Aqua on the sale of all its sanitary sewer assets. Mike Sullivan, PMAA Region #1 Director was in attendance and offered his perspective on the sale and the projected impact of significant rate increases in the future.

In summary, the orchestrated sale of the sanitary sewer system which currently is a "non-profit" Authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to a "for profit publicly traded entity" are contrary to the interests of the ratepayers, and constituents of Bucks County. The result will be astronomical increase in rates. The (Bucks Authority) in concert with Aqua are leading the public relations effort on promoting the sale as value to our communities under the premise of "fiduciary responsibilities." The Bucks County Commissioners have been mute on the issue which strongly suggests an abdication of responsibilities, which is contrary to why they were elected.

Other than Bucks County Municipal Authority and Aqua America, no other party, entity or organization has endorsed selling the sanitary sewer assets of Bucks County Municipal Authority.

7. Award Purchase Order – Manhole Rehabilitation

A motion (McGill-O'Donnell) made to approve the purchase order as outlined in the Quotation dated July 5, 2022 to Mr. Rehab LLC. of Mechanicsburg Pennsylvania under the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania COSTARS™ Cooperative Agreement number 016 037 for the purpose of manhole rehabilitation of four (4) manholes on Elm Ave and Pond View Dr in the amount of \$11,650.00 passed with 5 ayes.

8. Navy Cooperative Agreement Modification #3

A motion (O'Donnell McGill) made to authorize the Executive Director Thomas A. Zeuner to sign Modification No. 3 of the Cooperative Agreement No. N62473-18-2-2002 passed with 5 ayes

9. Award Purchase Order Sanitary Sewer Root Control

A motion (Farling-McGill) made to award a purchase order under the PA COSTARS™ Cooperative Purchasing Agreement 016-108 to Dukes Root Control Inc. of Elgin Illinois in accordance with their proposal dated August 2, 2022 in the amount of \$60,015.94 passed with 5 ayes.

10. Award Contract - Rockville Road – Watermain Replacement

A motion (McGill-Deon) made to award Contract 2-W-22, Rockville Road Watermain Replacement, to Anrich Inc. of Wayne Pennsylvania in accordance with the with their proposal dated July 28, 2022 in the amount of \$324,503.50 passed with 5 ayes.

COMMENTS:

Ken Ferris Esq., Rudolph Clarke LLC – provided an update on BCWSA litigation.

Christopher Walker provided an update on the contract issues with Insituform regarding their issues with a subcontractor. Edward Rudolph outlined the next steps to ensure contract compliance.

Edward Rudolph, Esq. provided an update regarding issues with PennDOT and the Buck Road Bridge replacement reimbursement.

Tom welcomed Laurie Hagey as our new Director of Finance and Administration.

There being no further business Chairman Deon adjourned the meeting at 7:43 P.M.