

Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 9, 2016
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
1108 FREAS AVENUE
BERWICK, PA 18603

The monthly scheduled and advertised meeting of the Berwick Area Joint Sewer Authority (BAJSA) was called to order by Chairman James Seeley at 6:00 pm. The pledge of allegiance to the flag was presented.

Roll call was taken and members in attendance were as follows: Chairman Jim Seeley, Secretary Scott Bower, Asst. Treasurer Benjamin Mike, Treasurer George Welliver, 2nd Assistant Treasurer Gary Pinterich, Asst. Pres Pro Tem Joseph Siecko, Vice Chairman Jimmy Morris and Assistant Secretary Ernie Ashbridge. Also in attendance were: Erin Threet from HRG, Engineer Dennis Peters, Authority Manager Gloria Bobersky Solicitor Anthony McDonald, Attorney Eric Brown, and employees Dennis Walck and Allan Fish.

PUBLIC INPUT

Leroy Fowler was present from the public to inquire when the billing will begin based on the 60 day connection notice he was sent to connect the property at 309 N Orchard Street in Berwick. Authority Manager Gloria Bobersky explained that 60 days after the date of the connection notice, he would then begin being billed for sewer services. Mr. Fowler is planning on selling the property, so if he does not connect, the money would be held in escrow for anticipated connection costs at the time of closing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Jimmy Morris to approve the meeting minutes of February 10, 2016. 2nd by Gary Pinterich. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Motion made by George Welliver to approve the payment of bills in the amount of \$148,865.75. 2nd by Ernie Ashbridge. Roll call vote was taken and was as follows:

E. Ashbridge	-	Yes
B. Mike	-	Yes
S. Bower	-	Yes
J. Siecko	-	Yes
J. Seeley	-	Yes
J. Morris	-	Yes
G. Pinterich	-	Yes
G. Welliver	-	Yes

All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

ENGINEER – HRG

Reviewed the report regarding the Preliminary Design phase for the blower upgrade project, and is submitting the Part II Permit Application to DEP within the next few weeks.

SOLICITOR – ANTHONY McDONALD

Tony McDonald reviewed that the county recently held a judicial sale on a property that has held a large sewer bill for quite some time. Also reviewed the status of the Luzerne County sale on the Eddy property that sold on one bid.

ENGINEER – PETERS

Dennis Peters reviewed the status of the North of Front Street project being completed by Doli Construction.

Dennis Peters reviewed a verbal agreement with UGI that was made on splitting the cost of paving streets that both UGI and BAJSA have been doing construction on. UGI now took that agreement off of the table and is offering to pay for the trenches only for a cost of \$16,252.00, where the paving cost would've been \$104,975.00.

Motion made by George Welliver to reject the offer from UGI to complete the trenches only and send them a letter stating the paving costs will be split and state the amount that is needed for UGI to pay. 2nd by Gary Pinterich. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Dennis Peters reviewed the school project on Washington Street and went ahead and did their own inspections instead of contacting Peters. Images and documents should be requested from the architect who is in charge of the project.

Motion made by Jimmy Morris to approve Engineer Dennis Peters to submit a letter of request for images and documents of the Berwick School on Washington Street. 2nd by George Welliver. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Dennis Peters reviewed the ongoing issue with the Berwick Borough Stormwater Ordinance and is currently working on completing a Resolution to cover BAJSA.

Dennis Peters reviewed a meeting he attended with DEP regarding the MS4 issue, which will eliminate sedimentation, pollution and volume of water control. Is the board interested in joining the Columbia County MS4 program at a permit cost of \$500.00 or going forward with it on our own with the possibility of highly costs? There is an additional meeting with Columbia County on May 12, 2016 so Authority Manager Gloria Bobersky and Engineer Dennis Peters will bring more information back to the table for the board to review.

SUPERINTENDENT

Allan Fish reviewed there were no overflows to the river during an over 2” rainstorm.

MANAGER

Gloria Bobersky reviewed RBC Capital Markets spreadsheet regarding the possibility of a new bond series for the two bank notes and the Ida Street PennVest for a net savings of \$276,000.00 if the board has any interest. The board would like Authority Manager Gloria Bobersky to inquire on how many years the new bond series would extend out with a breakdown for each loan. Gloria will bring the information back to the table at the April 13, 2016 meeting for the board to discuss.

Reviewed that the Pretreatment ordinance for the surcharge equation was last calculated in 1993. Engineers Erin Threet, Dennis Peters and Authority Manager Gloria Bobersky will be reviewing this equation and coming back to the board with a recommendation for the surcharge equation.

NEW BUSINESS

Motion made by George Welliver to approve pay Application #1 for Doli in the amount of \$418,734.90. 2nd by Joe Siecko. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by George Welliver to move to eliminate the second operational shift of the sewer plant in its entirety in accordance with the managerial prerogative of the BAJSA for reasons of economy and operational efficiency, effective March 24, 2016. 2nd by Ernie Ashbridge. Roll call vote was taken and was as follows:

- E. Ashbridge - Yes
- B. Mike - Yes
- S. Bower - Yes
- J. Siecko - Yes
- J. Seeley - Yes
- J. Morris - Yes
- G. Pinterich - Yes
- G. Welliver - Yes

All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Motion made by George Welliver to move to eliminate four sewer plant positions, specifically three Solids Handlers positions and one Maintenance position, in accordance with all applicable provisions of the collective bargaining agreement between the BAJSA and Teamsters Local No. 764; and, further, move to authorize and direct BAJSA management to issue all appropriate notices to employees and 14 day monetary severance as required by the CBA to implement the lay-off as soon as possible. 2nd by Ernie Ashbridge. Roll call vote was taken and was as follows:

- E. Ashbridge - Yes
- B. Mike - Yes

S. Bower	-	Yes
J. Siecko	-	Yes
J. Seeley	-	Yes
J. Morris	-	Yes
G. Pinterich	-	Yes
G. Welliver	-	Yes

All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

Motion made by Benjamin Mike to adjourn. 2nd by Joe Siecko. All in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

The next regularly scheduled BAJSA meeting will be held on Wednesday April 13, 2016 at 6:00 pm.