

SLATINGTON BOROUGH AUTHORITY

125 SOUTH WALNUT STREET

SLATINGTON PA 18080

DRAFT MINUTES

March 21, 2017

The regular meeting of the Slatington Borough Authority was called to order by Chair Scott Schuckert at 6:30 PM at Borough Hall, 125 S. Walnut Street, Slatington, PA 18080.

Members Present: Scott Schuckert, Chair, Tony Gnas, Treasurer, Joe Wechsler, two vacancies.

Others Present: Edmund Healy, Solicitor; David Frederick, Assistant Treasurer; Joan Cheesbrough, Recording Secretary

Visitors: Mel Gildner, Ed Ziegler

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –Tony Gnas made a motion, seconded by Joe Wechsler, to approve the minutes as presented for the December 6, 2016 meeting of the Authority. Motion was passed following a voice vote. All ayes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – The transfer from Council was received to cover the bills approved at the December 2016 meeting. All the bills have been paid. We received \$2.72 from the H2O Fund checking account to close out the account. There were some charges in petty cash for postage - \$12.69. Joe Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Tony Gnas to approve the report for March 31, 2017 as presented. Motion passed following a voice vote. All ayes.

PAYMENT OF BILLS Regular bills – Steckel & Stopp billing for November, 2016 - \$125.00; Steckel & Stopp for December work - \$1,243.75; Steckel & Stopp for February, 2017 work - \$2,675.00; PA DEP 2017 Annual Fee Invoice for NPDES permits - \$1,250.00; Joan Cheesbrough for March 21, 2017, minutes - \$125.00, for a total of \$5,418.75..Ed Healy noted he felt we should approve the March invoice from Joan to be paid upon the receipt and review of the March minutes. He also noted that the Steckel & Stopp charges for January and February were incurred at the request of the Slatington Borough Manager. Joe Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Scott Schuckert, to pay these bills in the amount of \$5,418.751.

Motion passed following a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes: Joe Wechsler, Tony Gnas, Scott Schuckert

Nays: None.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS –Tony Gnas made a motion, seconded by Joe Wechsler, to request a transfer of \$5,418.75 from Council to pay these bills. Motion passed following a roll call vote as follows:

Ayes Joe Wechsler, Tony Gnas, Scott Schuckert Nays:

None.

VISITORS – Ed Ziegler – no comments at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

a. Public Official Ethics Act “Statement of Financial, Interest” forms for the calendar year 2016 have been received. Please complete and return to Karen, in the Borough Office by May 1, 2017.

b. Letter dated January 28, 2017, from Lehigh Engineering Associates, Inc., Borough of Slatington Waste Water Treatment Plant Flows - Operating Year 2016.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board held an executive session at 6:41, and re-convened the regular meeting at 7:10 PM.

REPORTS

a. Review EPA sewer report and the solicitor’s response. Tony Gnas made a motion to authorize the solicitor to submit his draft reply to the EPA. Scott Schuckert seconded the motion, which passed following a roll call vote as follows: Ayes: Joe Wechsler, Tony Gnas, Scott Schuckert

Nays: None.

c. Wastewater Treatment Plant Reports, Sewer Flows, Discharge Monitoring Report and Sewer District #1 Flows for November and December 2016 and January 2017. There were no violations or concerns. It was noted that Mr. Szczesny has been doing a remarkable job at the Plant. There followed a discussion about the only problem noted, which is the grease that is getting in to the system, and from where it is coming. They recently removed 3400 gallons of grease from the pump station. Joe Wechsler made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Scott Schuckert. Motion passed following a voice vote – all ayes.

d. Assistant Treasurer’s time and travel expenses for January, February and March, 2017 – time \$275.00 and travel - \$124.65, for a total \$ 399.65. Tony Gnas made a motion to accept the report, seconded by Joe Wechsler. Motion passed, following a voice vote – all ayes.

e. Final 2016-2017 Budget/Expenditure Report – February 1, 2016 to January 31, 2017. We only expended 54% of the budget.

f. 2017-2018 Administrative Fund Budget/Expenditure Report – February 2017 to March 21, 2017. Until this evening, we have not had any expenses. Ed Healy noted that the budget for legal expense shown is related to normal legal issues for the Authority. The EPA response is considered extraordinary, and is a special item outside of the normal budget. The \$5,000 budget is not going to cover the rest of the year since we had the major report we had to respond to from the EPA. not a part of the normal legal expense.

Scott Schuckert made a motion, seconded by Joe Wechsler, to accept the two budget reports. Motion passed, following a voice vote – all ayes.

OTHER BUSINESS-

a. PennVest checking account was overdrawn as deposits were not made to the account by the Borough in February 2017. Ed Healy noted there should have been two months' worth of payments in the account. There was a payment made on March 6, which corrected the matter.

b. Authorization for the Chairman to issue the first quarter 2017 letter to DEP (to be dated March 31, 2017). Joe Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Scott Schuckert, to have the Chairman to issue the letter to the DEP by March 31, 2017. Motion passed following a voice vote as follows: Ayes: Tony Gnas Scott Schuckert

Nays: Joe Wechsler

c. Transition of plant and other assets to Slatington Borough upon approval of transfer submitted to the State. Ed Healy was noted that we have received no reply from the DEP to date, which is very frustrating, but suggested that perhaps the EPA report and response may help.

There followed a discussion of the violations at the plant. Joe Wechsler questioned whether we had a lot of violations, or if this was just one ongoing problem. It was explained that we had many instances of the same CBOD violation over the past 4-5 years or so arising typically during the months of January through March, notably at times of cold weather. The plant also suffers overflows on rare occasions during or following heavy precipitation events.

Tony Gnas noted that in light of the injured worker at the Plant, he would like a letter sent to Borough Council from the Authority recommending they get some sort of "man down" alert system for the employees. Scott Schuckert stated that the Borough would have to look into different systems, not like the \$99 per month ones on TV. Tony Gnas made a motion, seconded by Scott Schuckert, that the letter be sent to Council. Motion passed following a voice vote, all ayes. There followed some discussion as to the reliability of such a system. Chair Scott Schuckert will draft the letter, asking that a wireless system be evaluated by Council. Ed Healy will look over the correspondence.

VISITORS

Ed Ziegler stated he picks up the peanut oil from the Slatington American Legion and the Walnutport VFW. He thinks this should help with the grease content. He stated “there is still a lot of fat coming from the school district buildings and getting down to the Plant, per Duane Szczesny. That needs to be looked into. Another problem is the grit coming into the system, possibly from "Horner’s Laundromat”. This is very bad for the Muffin Monster. Ed Healy noted that restaurant grease traps historically had been monitored by the operators and may deserve attention. He mentioned that the Borough sewage quality ordinances are generally in good shape, but certain amendments had been developed and given to Council but a few years ago, but he could not recall what those amendments covered or what happened to those draft amendments. He also said that the grit and high I&I flows occurring during or following rain events could come from the 20% or so of the public collection system which was not replaced as part of the PennVest project and/or the private laterals serving each structure in the Borough. Those laterals could comprise up to 50% of the entire combined public and private system. He commented that the collection system was always the responsibility of the road crew, not the operators. He did not know if there was any ongoing I&I work being done by the Borough.

ADJOURNMENT – Tony Gnas made a motion, seconded by Joe Wechsler, to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 pm. Motion passed following a voice vote – all ayes.

The meeting was reconvened at 8:12 pm. Joan Cheesbrough requested she be allowed to take the Minute Book home to make copying and forwarding minutes easier, since it has sometimes been 2-3 months between meetings. Joe Wechsler made a motion, seconded by Tony Gnas, that the Authority allow her to take the Book home. Motion passed following a voice vote – all ayes. Ed Healy noted she will have to bring the Book to all meetings and have it available for any Right to Know Requests. Joan stated this would not be a problem.

Tony Gnas made a motion, seconded by Scott Schuckert, to readjourn the meeting at 8:14Pm. Motion passed following a voice vote – all ayes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Schuckert

Chairman