

February 15, 2017
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the Monroe Township Municipal Authority was called to order by Chairman Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

ATTENDANCE

Kevin Miller, Chairman
Sue Sunday, Vice Chairperson
William Beck, Treasurer
Ronald Eckerd, Secretary

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor
Bill Rudy, Engineer
Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Carl Kuhl, Supervisor, apologized for the delay in paying off the Northern portion of the 2010 bond. PFM has done a financial review to determine which is more beneficial paying the interest on the current bond or borrowing new money, if needed. A copy of this review has been given to Mr. Eckerd and Mr. Beck and the northern portion of the bond will be paid off.

Mr. Kuhl added that an Early Intervention Program – Financial Analysis will be done to review all funds before the Comprehensive Plan moves forward.

Mr. Kuhl stated that a joint workshop with the Supervisor and Planning Commission will be held on February 28th at 10 AM. The Municipal Authority was invited and their input is welcome.

Mr. Kuhl stated that Ms. Araiza has applied for a grant for I&I investigation. Money can't be spent on this until the grant is issued. If the Authority Board would like to get work started before that time, they are to request funding from the Supervisors.

MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Ms. Sunday and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2017 regular and reorganization meetings.

On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2017 workshop.

OPERATIONS REPORT

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Operations Reports for January.

FINANCIAL REPORT

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.

Mr. Beck provided an updated financial report for the Southern District for review.

Mr. Miller added that the treatment charges for the 4th quarter of 2016 were below what we have been budgeting.

LIEN/DEBT REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Lien/Debt Report.

CAPACITY REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Capacity Report.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pykosh reported that \$5,800 has been collected since the last meeting. He is currently working with 3 of the 4 largest accounts to possibly work out payment plans, if approved by the Municipal Authority Board and the Supervisors.

Mr. Pykosh stated that default judgements have been filed 2 of the properties in Monroe Acres and he is working with one on the connection. He has obtained a new address for the last one and is going to try to have the papers served again. He has contacted Sheldon Williams at Dillsburg Authority with this information as well.

Last month Mr. Gleeson presented a spreadsheet format to the delinquent accounts. The Board agreed to proceed with the spreadsheet for monthly updates.

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Solicitor's report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Rudy provided an engineer report dated February 6, 2017.

Mr. Rudy stated that each district has an Operator that must be reported to DEP. The previous engineer had an Operator from his firm fill this position. Mr. Rudy said there are several options to have someone fill this position. Pennoni could do it for a limited time or we could talk to Mechanicsburg WWTP, SMTMA or Dillsburg Authority. We could even hire a contracted Operator. Once an Operator is determined they will also need to create an SOP for the pump stations.

There was some discussion on what the Operator does, who has done this in the past and the possibility of working with one of the surrounding authorities.

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to temporarily have Pennoni Associates fill in as the Operator and create an SOP for the Southern District for no longer than a one year time period, but work toward

completing this process in less than 6 months. And have a list of possible operators supplied to the Board.

Mr. Rudy stated that there are some concerns with the pumps and the flow test that took place in December to fill the equalization tank. Mr. Bruening provided an email detailing the concerns. Mr. Rudy stated that there are two options to fix this problem and they are currently obtaining costs for both options for the Supervisors joint meeting on February 28th.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Engineer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

SOUTHERN DISTRICT I&I – 10 YEAR PLAN – STEP 1

Mr. Rudy stated that they have researched all of the videos on file and found some new videos than where listed on the map. They haven't had a chance to look at them yet. Mr. Miller requested to have an update at the next meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table this matter until the next meeting.

I&I PROJECT PROPOSAL FROM CATALINA ARAIZA

Mr. Miller stated that 2 grants were applied for. Blossom Terrace for \$127,500 and I&I investigation for \$147,550. We should here in March if the grants were approved.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table this matter until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

CHRISTOPHER THOMAS – PAYMENT PLAN DISCUSSION

Mr. Pykosh explained that the Township was heading toward the foreclosure procedure with Mr. Thomas' property. Mr. Thomas has proposed to set up a payment plan of \$300 per month, plus paying the quarterly charges. It would take about 3 years and 9 months to pay this off, which is a little longer than the typical agreements. He added that if Mr. Thomas would default on the agreement the township would resume the collection process.

Mr. Miller thought this agreement was a good idea if held up. The main goal is to get debt paid.

Ms. Sunday feels that it is better to get debt paid down taking a little longer, rather than not getting debt paid down at all. She does not want to see this with smaller accounts and would like to review special payment plans on a case by case basis.

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors to approve the payment plan agreement for Christopher Thomas.

TAPPING FEE REVIEW

Mr. Miller stated that the tapping fees have not been updated since 2006. He thought this was done on a regular basis. Our debt has increased so this needs to be looked at.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to have the engineer look at updating the Act 57 plan with current data and providing a cost to do this work.

PUMP REPAIR COST COMPARISON

Mr. Miller stated that he recently contact another company to provide a comparison for pump repairs. Ms. Lowery provided a description of repairs that were made and then created a memo comparing the costs. He added that in the comparison there was a potential savings of \$1,500 on a 15hp pump and \$2,000 on a 40hp pump.

The Board agreed to give Heim Company a try to see how it goes the next time a pump goes out. They have 24 hour service and are located in Harrisburg.

STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Beck stated that the had made a motion in November 2016 regarding sewer rates in the Southern system with Churchtown and out-lying areas subsidizing the costs for White Rock. He added that a lot of money has been spent up there, the rates are high and the Valley area is the only ones being asked to help support the debt other than White Rock.

Ms. Sunday said that most of the debt is from the installation of the systems in White Rock and the Valley in 1999 and 2000. Everyone owes for that. There are problems in White Rock and to fix the problems the Southern Sewer District will assume the debt.

Mr. Miller said that he doesn't want rates to go up to fix any issues in White Rock. We need to be creative to look for grants for this work. If repairs are done it would reduce the flow, which could reduce the rates.

Mr. Eckerd asked if the court gave the township the bad system or if they gave it to the rate payers. Mr. Miller said they gave it to the township. May be a broader base needs to be looked at. Mr. Beck said a broader base or lower the rates for the Churchtown and out-lying areas more than the White Rock residents.

Mr. Kuhl said he has talked with bond council about a surplus of money in the township and the possibility of it being used to pay down general debt.

Ms. Sunday said if that would be possible that would be a huge help. The problem with the White Rock system is huge and long lived. We need to use creativity to find a solution. She agrees with Mr. Beck as she pays this bill too.

Mr. Beck stated that he expressed his opinion and would like the Board to keep this issue in mind. It's not right that a small portion help pay for the problems in White Rock.

ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery
Recording Secretary