

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  
Ron Eckerd, Secretary  
Bill Beck, Treasurer

Mike Pykosh, Solicitor  
Chris Gleeson, Solicitor  
Bill Rudy, Engineer  
Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bill Johnson, 207 Simmons Road, said he attended last week's Board of Supervisors meeting and came away upset, overwhelmingly disappointed and feeling disrespected. He feels disrespected because he pays \$350 per quarter and last week they choose not to accept the Municipal Authorities recommendation to lower the rate, 2 of the 3 Supervisors voted no. He understands the Authority has made recommendations for 2 years to lower the rate, but the Supervisors have not taken action. In his opinion the Authority should feel disrespected as well. He added that he looks forward to listening to both Boards and would like to learn how to work together to solve this issue.

Mr. Johnson understands the grinder pump system in his area is a pressurized system and would like to know if there would be an extended power outage would the system operate or is electric needed. Mr. Rudy said that the grinder pumps need electric to operate, however there is a tank outside of the house that could hold the sewer for a few days.

Laurie O'Brien, 202 Simmons Road, said that when they built their home in Lisburn Meadows they were given a few options: sand mound, septic, holding tank or the public sewer. They were advised to connect to the sewer because the entire neighborhood would be connected by 2013 and that has not happened. They were also told that the more users that were connected would help the price go down and the rate has done nothing but sky rocket. Her understanding is that Monroe has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest sewer rate in Pennsylvania. She asked why there is a cash reserve of 1.4 million. If there is debt it should be paid down with that cash.

Debra Sunday, 51 Longmeadow Street, has concerns with the sewer rates and had attended the Board of Supervisors meeting last week. In 1996 residents were told that a 20 year loan was obtained and once paid off the rates would go down. In 1996 the quarterly rate was \$193.50 and now the rate is \$235.00. At a 2004 meeting a breakdown of the rate was provided, which showed that \$133.52 was for debt service and the rest was for operation and maintenance, so why hasn't the bill gone down? There is \$800,000 in reserves and Monroe Township is not a bank, so why not pay the debt and give relief to the township residents. She checked with other sewer areas and found out Mechanicsburg pay \$100 for first 6,000 gallons, North Middleton pays \$100 for the first 4,000 gallons and Silver Spring Township pays \$144 per quarter. She understand the Authority has attempted to have the rates reduced, but it was apparent at the meeting that Mr. Castle and Mr. Kehoe have no desire to do that. She said she was not given an answer as to why the rates aren't being reduced, which is not

acceptable. Ms. Sunday added that she had a conversation with Mr. Kuhl who is sympathetic to the residents concerns and Mr. Kuhl told her that Mr. Castle basically will go along with whatever Mr. Kehoe wants and Mr. Kehoe doesn't want to do anything to reduce the rates in the Northern District because he doesn't want to upset the Southern District. And he added that Mr. Kehoe wants to use the \$800,000 reserves in the Northern District to pay off debt in the Southern District. She feels that each district should use their specific reserve amounts to pay off their debt and then make the sewer a township issue and start a sewer tax so that everyone has to cover it. She would like to know why the Supervisors won't work with the Authority to give relief because it is a financial hardship for a lot of residents in the township.

Mr. Miller said that the state mandated treatment plant upgrades, so that did affect the debt and rates, not to say that we don't have reserves to be looked at. The Authority needs to put more pressure on the Supervisors to be more open to possible changes to the rate structure.

Ms. Sunday understands that at one time the Authority was able to set rates, but are now an advisory board and can't set rates. Mr. Jackson explained that a proposed rate increase years ago caused turmoil and residents accused the Authority Board at that time of stealing money, so the Board resigned and the Supervisors took over. The southern district I&I is a mess in White Rock and will cost 2-3 million to do repairs. Mr. Jackson added that his personal opinion is that Mr. Kehoe wants the \$800,000 from the Northern District to offset the Southern District. He added that in bonds there are clauses of where the money can be spent, but when there aren't bonds those clauses aren't in place. Ms. Sunday agreed and added that Mr. Kehoe said last week about taking money to fix problems and Mr. Kuhl told her that is what they want to do.

Ms. Sunday added that she will attend the reorganization meeting and ask for answers again. If answers aren't provided then maybe media attention is needed. They will get more people involved until the Board of Supervisors listen to the concerns because right now they don't care and don't respect us. They just want to hoard the money to fix White Rock Acres. Mr. Beck said that the best avenue for change is public pressure and the ballot box.

Mr. Miller added that these are good steps to make changes. He appreciates the input and we will see what information is available at the next meeting. Ms. Sunday asked when the loan will be paid off. Mr. Eckerd said the Northern Debt is \$809,228.40 with an interest rate of 2.110% and will be paid off in 2025. The Supervisors did approve paying an additional \$100,000 toward the debt in 2019, along with the scheduled payment of \$101,000 toward principal and \$15,000 toward interest. Ms. Sunday said that during the Supervisors meeting, Mr. Castle and Mr. Kehoe passed the Northern District rate for 2019 and were questioned about possibly reducing the rate during the year and Mr. Castle said nothing is written in stone, so that did give her a little window of hope that changes could be made. Ms. Sunday asked when Mr. Kehoe is up for re-election. Mr. Johnson said next year. Ms. Sunday said that we need to find someone to replace him since he is not being responsive to the needs to the township. Mr. Miller said the Board has looked at the budgets carefully the last few years and were able to see areas to make recommendations, but have not yet taken us up on that and we need to work to make that happen. Mr. Johnson asked what it would take to have an operating authority. Ms. Suzanne Sunday said the Supervisors would have to support that and Mr. Miller added that full time employees would need to be added.

Rick Line, Criswell Drive, asked if the upcoming joint meeting between the Supervisors and Authority would be open to the public. Mr. Miller said it would be open to the public, however, he didn't know if public comments would be taken.

Austin O'Brien, 202 Simmons Road, asked if there are any more projected hook ups. What about the possible development at Ashcombe? Mr. Miller said that Ashcombes would be part of the Dillsburg area. Mr. O'Brien asked about the Allenberry Development. Mr. Miller said action was taken and the Authority will not benefit from Allenberry. Mr. O'Brien asked if we are close to capacity. Mr. Miller explained that our capacity is based on flows, during dry seasons we have some availability, but during wet seasons our EDU's are impacted. He added that there are other areas of the township that have on-lot systems, but are in sewer areas and may have to come on board in the next 5 years or so. Mr. O'Brien asked if that was a state mandate. Mr. Miller wasn't sure exactly how that works, but if the state determines a problem in an on-lot area they will require information on how the issue will be corrected.

## MINUTES

**On the motion of Mr. Eckerd, and seconded by Ms. Sunday and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2018 regular meeting.**

## OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Miller shared that the Mechanicsburg flows increased significantly and thinks there may be a leak. Mr. Rudy said that he and the DPW were out and pulled manhole lids once they were made aware of the high flows. They checked Franklin Drive since there are residents pumping, but there were no indication of an issue since this is a new system. He said the issue seems to be on Nixon Drive and would like to install the flow meters in this area to confirm. Televising can then be done once we get flow data.

Mr. Eckerd was concerned that Mechanicsburg hadn't notified Monroe of the high flows. Mr. Rudy stated that overall Mechanicsburg is seeing higher flows at the plant from all of the rain, so it probably didn't jump out them.

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

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Beck also handed out a Statement of Revenues and Expenses through November 2018.

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

## LIEN/DEBT REPORT

Mr. Eckerd asked about account 868. Mr. Gleeson said he has filed a writ of execution, however this property is a rental so it has been a bit more difficult since they have to pursue the owner at another location.

Mr. Jackson stated that the water could be shut off and that we need to get a back bone. Mr. Pykosh replied that when he became the solicitor the outstanding debt was approximately \$190,000 and we are now down to \$66,000. We have collected from customers who hadn't made payments for 15 years. He feels the key is communication, talk and try to work out a plan before taking out the sword. There were 3 accounts in bankruptcy, we are now down to one and have collected from the other two. He added that account 868 has done this repeatedly. All of the accounts with liens have entered into payment plans, have a lawsuit filed against them, or are headed toward foreclosure. Mr. Miller added that we have made a lot of progress

**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. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Capacity Report.**

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pykosh had nothing further.

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Rudy provided his engineer report dated December 13, 2018. He also provided a map of White Rock showing the areas that have been televised. He added that the DPW has made great progress and would guess about 40% of the area is done. Mr. Beck asked if we are keeping records of what is being found. Mr. Rudy said records are being kept of broken pipes, roots founds, potential leaking laterals, the type of pipe.

Mr. Rudy stated that while televising Laurel Drive roots were discovered in the line and the cameral actually got stuck. He is concerned this root blockage could cause a backup. He obtained a price from USG of \$3,280 for a full day of work to cut out the roots and jet the line. He is also going to obtain a price from Mr. Rehab, but would ask for approval to move forward with the lowest price.

**On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to authorize jetting the Laurel Drive sewer line with the cost not to exceed \$3,300.00.**

**On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to install the two flow meters in the Northern District as soon as possible.**

**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 Engineer's report.**

#### OLD BUSINESS

#### SOUTHERN DISTRICT I&I and SUMP PUMP INSPECTION DISCUSSION

**On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to table the Southern District I&I and Sump Pump Inspection Discussion until the joint meeting with the Board of Supervisors.**

SANDY GERNATOR SLAB - The Board agreed to table this item until March meeting

#### JOINT MEETING WITH SUPERVISORS

Mr. Miller reviewed the date and time of the meeting and reviewed the proposed agenda. The Board agreed to add the following items to the agenda: sump pump inspections, discuss quarterly rates in both districts, discuss updating the tapping fees, the possibility of an infrastructure tax and scheduling additional meetings.

**On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the meeting date and time and to add the additional items mentioned to the agenda.**

NEW BUSINESS

TRINDLE STATION 5 EDU REQUEST

**On the motion of Mr. Eckerd, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve Trindle Station's request for 5 EDU's.**

STAFF COMMENTS - None

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery  
Recording Secretary