

March 16, 2016
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
Mark Bruening, Engineer
Karen Lowery, Recording Secretary

PUBLIC COMMENTS –

Carl Kuhl, Supervisor, was happy to announce the newest Township Representative on the Dillsburg Authority, Richard Line. He is also very happy with the way Authority Board is going and the improvements this year.

MINUTES

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 minutes of the February 17, 2016 regular.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Kuhl asked why the Northern district showed high flows in June and the Southern district showed high flows in July. Mr. Bruening said it could be that the storm intensities were different in each area.

Mr. Eckerd asked why the flows were so high in February. Mr. Miller said it was from the snow melt and the amount it rained.

There was a discussion about the flows, the reservation with the plant, DEP calculations and how the 3 month average is calculated.

Mr. Miller asked if Leidigh Pump station needed to be cleaned since the pumps were just installed. Mr. Bruening said he would like to have a good cleaning done again.

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 Operations Reports for February.

Mr. Bruening mentioned that he had received an email from Jeff Wilbur regarding the times the pumps run. He said in dry weather the pumps should be running very closely. The pumps will alternate each time they run, but during wet periods a pump may run for a long time pumps the pit down and shuts off.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Eckerd asked why the report is not done for a month in whole. Karen explained that we do the bills for the Supervisors meeting which is close to the middle of the month.

Mr. Beck provided a handout showing debt service by fund and graphs showing the aggregate for each fund. In about 15 years the debt will drop down.

Mr. Kuhl said the bonds can be refinanced in November. Bond counsel would be willing to meet with the Board in May or June if interested. Other financing options could also be looked at. The Board of Supervisors have approved the Authority Board to review the bonds and make a recommendation.

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

LIEN/DEBT REPORT

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 Lien/Debt Report.

CAPACITY REPORT

On the motion of Mr. Eckerd, 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 provided a memo to the Board listing the status of accounts that he has filed complaints against. Every account that is not on a payment plan is be addressed legally. He has filed suit against 10 accounts and the hearing information and judgement information is listed. After 30 days he can register the judgement and file the writ of execution. There are a few larger accounts that he is performing a title search on to possibly move forward with the foreclosure process. Lastly, there is a list of accounts showing any payments that have been made since December 2015.

Mr. Pykosh also stated that a lien have been filed against Allenberry. He believes they are working on an offer received to purchase the property. He has been in touch with Allenberry and is going to wait to see what happens with the sale. He said that if we move forward with any additional action it could cause a problem with the sale.

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 Solicitors Report.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Bruening reviewed the engineer report dated March 15, 2016.

Mr. Bruening provided copies of the Chapter 94 report for the Northern district tonight.

Mr. Kuhl questioned how far out Mr. Bruening's suggestions for I&I repairs was for. Mr. Bruening said that the Board asked him to prepare a list of things that could be done to find I&I issues and the cost estimates to perform these items. Mr. Kuhl asked if he would estimate a percentage reduction. Mr. Bruening said no. This process is to perform tests to identify areas that may need repairs.

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 Engineers Report.

OLD BUSINESS

PUMP STATION PHONE LINES

Mr. Miller said that he has worked with a vendor that offers a wireless system that could eliminate all 5 phone lines. He needs to look at how the pump stations are wired to see if this type of system will work. The current expense of the phone lines is approximately \$2,700 per year, so we would need to keep that in mind with the cost if we are looking for a savings.

On a motion by Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table the pump station phone line discussion.

ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Ms. Sunday informed the Board that 98 volunteer hours have been spent working on this project. There are 4 groups working and one group has offered to do all of the data entry. They are currently working on the Northern district with manholes and pipes and could be finished in 2 weeks. They will then move on to the Southern district non-White Rock areas. She is pleased that this is moving so quickly and smoothly. The volunteers are working hard performing 2 1/2 hour shifts and Sharon Nelson has spent many hours entering manholes and pipe locations needed to fill in other information.

Ms. Sunday also said that she has created a list of the plans and developed an organized storage system for the plans so there will be no more searching for plans.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table the Asset Management discussion.

2016 AND BEYOND NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN DISTRICT PLANS

Mr. Bruening he has been gathering information and obtaining prices. He will have the information for the next meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to table 2016 and beyond Northern and Southern district plans.

SEWER SYSTEM OPTIONS

Ms. Sunday feels that the Board has enough on their plate right now.

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table the Sewer System Options.

GENERATOR MAINTENANCE OPTIONS

Ms. Lowery said they are working on getting Generator Maintenance Options and should have them for the next meeting.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to table the Generator Maintenance Options.

2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Eckerd said he is willing to work on budget information for the Northern district and he was hoping Mr. Beck would be willing to work on the Southern district. There are some questions about what certain line items are used for and explanations of the budgeted amount. Mr. Miller felt this is a good starting point and Ms. Sunday said this would help her. There was some discussion regarding the 2017 budget and what need to be looked at and determine how much is needed for future plans.

Mr. Eckerd added that he and Mr. Beck attended a training at the PAMAA and learned some valuable information and heard from Concord Public Finance. They explained that the Authority/Township should maintain a strong fund balance, the general rule of thumb is 10% of the budget. Mr. Beck said the current bond rate is 3 ¼%. Generally there should be a 2% difference to save any money if refinancing.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to table the 2017 Budget Discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

1175 KUHN ROAD - SINGLE EDU REQUEST

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Eckerd, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approval a single EDU request for 1175 Kuhn Road.

ARTICLE FOR NEWSLETTER

Mr. Miller stated that with the current issues at the Leidigh Pump Station an article for the newsletter has been created to give some common sense rules of what is appropriate to put down the drain. There can be major impacts and costly repairs to certain items are put down the drain.

Mr. Beck suggested adding that maintenance problems for the sewer translate to increased costs and ultimately increased user fees.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to add "maintenance problems for the sewer translate to increased costs and ultimately increased user fees" to the newsletter article.

COMMENTS

Ms. Sunday stated that she had an interesting conversation some neighbors that there is a conception going around that the Churchtown area is paying higher rates than the White Rock area to pay for their repairs. Ms. Sunday explained that the rate is the same in the entire Southern district, but wanted to make the Board aware.

Mr. Kuhl asked if any of the Board has been to the South Middleton Sewer Plant for a tour. This could be something Mr. Bruening could offer. Mr. Miller said it could be beneficial. Mr. Bruening said that once the construction was complete he could set this up. He could also contact the Northern district for a plant tour.

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 8:20 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery
Recording Secretary