

August 21, 2019
7:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

Kevin Miller, Chairman
Sue Sunday, Vice Chairperson
William Beck, Treasurer
Andrew Clancy, Asst. Sec/Treas.

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

Mr. Miller added a new item to the agenda under New Business, Item C, Letter from South Middle Township Municipal Authority.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deb Sunday, 51 Longmeadow Street, is frustrated that 9 months ago she started asking some questions and has not been given any answers. 22 years ago, residents were told rates would go down after debt was paid, but they have done nothing except increase. The Municipal Authority has made recommendations for rate reductions, but the Supervisors won't agree. She would like to know how much money should be kept in reserves. She feels that debt should be paid down, or rates should be reduced.

MINUTES

On the motion of Ms. Sunday, and seconded by Mr. Clancy, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2019 regular meeting.

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 minutes of the July 23, 2019 joint workshop.

OPERATIONS REPORT

Mr. Rudy explained there have been some issues with the VFD for the past several months. Pennoni had a meeting with Jeff Wilbur to teach him how to reset the VFD's if they trip. They will continue to monitor this to see if there is a reason they are tripping.

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Beck provided a statement of revenue and expenses through July along with budget comparison.

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

LIEN/DEBT REPORT

Mr. Gleeson reported that account 866-0 has paid \$12,000. He is working on setting up a payment plan for the remaining \$7,000. He has been in contact with account 904-0 and is anticipating payment shortly. Account 44-0 has filed for bankruptcy, the township will be paid over time. Account 139-0 is slated for an upset tax sale in September. And account 147-0 has paid the Sheriff in full and payment will be sent to the township soon. Mr. Gleeson added that the lien debt is now under \$50,000 which is a first in the 3 years he has been working on this.

On the motion of Mr. Clancy, 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. Clancy, 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. Gleeson updated the Board that the Supervisors approved advertisement of the Sump Pump Ordinance and Certification, so this should be enacted at the September meeting.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Rudy reviewed the report dated August 14, 2019.

There was some further discussion regarding the VFD at Leidigh pump station and how it should be monitored more closely to make sure it's operating properly.

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

OLD BUSINESS

JOINT WORKSHOP

Mr. Miller said that he has reached out to Dawn Keefer to find out if there are any state or federal grants that we may be able to look into.

The Board mentioned meeting with the Supervisors to look at budget numbers for 2020. Ms. Lowery mentioned that there is a budget workshop scheduled for August 29th at 6 PM.

On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote the members it was duly RESOLVED to attend the Supervisors at the budget workshop on August 29th.

NEW BUSINESS

WHITE ROCK PROJECT – PAYMENT REQUEST

On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Clancy, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve payment #1 to Ankiewicz Enterprises in the amount of \$120,429.45 for the White Rock Project.

2020 BUDGET DISCUSSION

Mr. Beck provided a preliminary budget for the north and south and was looking for input on some of the items.

Southern District:

The Board agreed that in 2020 planning for a 2021 project will take place. Treatment is hard to plan for since we've had a wet year, but agreed to use Mr. Beck's number. He increased maintenance/repair by \$10,000, the board was okay with this.

Mr. Beck suggested putting back \$35,000 per year in the capacity fund to put toward 2010 bond debt.

Northern District:

Maintenance/repair was increase by \$10,000. An extra \$50,000 was included for an additional bond payment and \$50,000 would come from the capacity fund. Mr. Miller asked how many homes are left to be built in the 2 developments and if there is any idea of an increase from Mechanicsburg for treatment.

General Discussion:

Mr. Beck would like to recommend a rate decrease in the Northern District. He didn't include it in his numbers, but would like to try again this year since the north can afford the decrease. He feels the rate in the Southern District needs to remain the same to build money for capital projects to fix the I&I issues.

The Board mentioned that the Supervisors feel that reserves need to be built up for future issues, but no one seems to know what a good reserve amount is. Mr. Miller said that the northern system is aging and may need repairs in the near future. Mr. Gleeson is going to look to see if he can find reserve suggestions. Mr. Beck said that all systems are different so there may not be a regulation. In the information he had found it suggested 20-40% of the yearly budget, but that equals \$160,000 which seems low to him.

Mr. Beck said if the rate was reduced to \$215 the income would decrease by \$32,000 for the year. Ms. Sunday agreed not to reduce the Southern District, but to recommend a reduction for the Northern District. Mr. Miller agreed.

Mr. Clancy asked how much outstanding debt the Northern District has. Mr. Beck said \$650,000. Mr. Clancy suggested really focusing on paying off the debt in a 2-year period then we could look at lowering rates since the debt would be paid and we would be saving about \$151,000 per year in debt payments. We need to learn from the Southern District and not get into a position where we don't have the money to fix issues and be treating rain water. We also don't want to cut rates then find an issue and not have enough in reserves to do a project which means we would need to borrow money and increase rates.

Mr. Miller suggested that we gather replacement costs for the pump station and line replacement to help determine how much should be in the reserves.

The Board agreed to make a firm recommendation to the Supervisors regarding northern rate reduction and northern bond reduction. If they aren't able to get both, maybe they can get one to show we are working toward a goal. Mr. Miller said recommendations should be sent to Mr. Beck.

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 2020 budget discussion and send recommendations to Mr. Beck for the budget workshop.

LETTER RECEIVED FROM SOUTH MIDDLETON MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Mr. Rudy said that SMTMA approved the Talking Bread plan, but Mr. Kissinger shared that the SMTMA Board won't grant any further connections until wet weather flows are below 200,000 gallons. SMTMA has requested a meeting with Monroe to discuss these matters and see what the plan is.

Mr. Miller said that we are working to fix the issues and have paid the fees due to excess treatment. He doesn't feel that a moratorium should be put in place to prevent growth. Mr. Clancy added that over the past 12 years not many repairs have been done, but in the last 12 months we can show work is being done and we are making a plan for the future.

STAFF COMMENTS - None

ADJOURN

On the motion of Mr. Clancy, and seconded by Ms. Sunday, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery
Recording Secretary