

## **LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY JANUARY 9, 2023**

The Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday January 9, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm, the following attended:

James Toth – Chairman

Sean Pence – Vice Chairman

Joe McGeehan – Member

Fred Ebert – Engineer

Tim Watson – Sewer Operator

Edward Wagner – Manager

James Vlahos – Treasurer – Arrived 6:26pm

Mark Loshnowsky – Secretary

Stephen Kalis – Solicitor

Ashlea Bullock

Mr. Toth announced that this meeting is being recorded.

**APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY MINUTES:** Mr. Toth requested a motion to approve the November 14, 2022, meeting minutes and Mr. Pence made the motion and Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

### **REORGANIZATION OF BOARD**

Mr. Loshnowsky made a motion for Mr. Kalis to preside as the Temporary Chairperson to oversee the reorganization of the board, and it was seconded by Mr. Toth. As temporary chairman, Mr. Kalis asked for the nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary & Treasurer. Mr. Pence proposed the slate of nominations to remain the same as last year, Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion. Mr. Kalis then asked for a motion to close the nomination process, Mr. McGeehan makes the motion and Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion, the group unanimously voted 4-0 to close the nominations. Mr. Kalis stated that there has been a slate of officers presented and requests a motion, Mr. Pence made a motion to approve the slate for the following year, Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously 4-0 to approve the slate for 2023.

Chairperson – James Toth

Vice Chair – Sean Pence

Secretary – Mark Loshnowsky

Treasurer – James Vlahos

Mr. Kalis stated that the reorganization meeting has come to conclusion at 6:08pm, and he turned the meeting back over to Mr. Toth, Chairperson.

### **PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANT APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Toth asked for a motion to appoint the professional consultation of Authority Solicitor Fox, Rothschild LLP at a rate of \$195 per hour and Authority Engineer Ebert Associates at a rate of \$110.75. Mr. Loshnowsky made the motion and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Loshnowsky made the motion to approve the meeting dates for 2023 which all meetings will begin at 6:00pm and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

### **Comments From Visitors: No Visitors**

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Update on Sanatoga Lake Pump Station Pump Replacement Project**

Mr. Watson stated that he has the rebuilt pump back and the old rotor shaft, Mr. McGeehan will take it to work and have analyzed to determine the malfunction. The reinstallation is scheduled for this Thursday or Friday. Mr. Watson stated that there are a few pieces to replace in the VFD and then they will be back online. Mr. Pence asked if we were to pay for half the costs and the terms of the warranty. Mr. Wagner stated that we have not received an invoice and Mr. Watson stated that they are putting together a warranty package and terms are one (1) year from date of installation.

##### **Update on Sunnyside Avenue sewer main replacement project Final Payment Request \$34,580.45**

Mr. Wagner presented the final payment request from the contractor and Mr. Ebert is satisfied as presented. There was a credit of \$51,935.00 due to the township doing the based repair on the final paving. He stated that he received the maintenance bond in the mail today for 18 months for 10% of the overall project cost (\$37,457.50). Mr. Wagner stated that he feels we are good to release the final payment and advised he believes that Mr. Ebert would concur. Mr. Ebert stated that he does agree that the project went well, will conduct an As-Built Survey for the entire project in the near future. Mr. Pence asked if there are any portions that need to be stabilized. Mr. Ebert stated that the majority is in the roadway but there was one section in which the contractor hired a professional landscaper and regraded their yard. Mr. Pence then asked what is left on the contract and Mr. Wagner and Mr. Ebert both explained nothing is left to be completed. The group discussed the success of the project and then Mr. Pence made the motion to pay the bill and Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion, and unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

##### **Update on the GP3 Permit for Sanatoga Lake streambank Stabilization Project**

Mr. Wagner stated that we got the Review for Adequacy letter from the Montgomery County Conservation District, and we are just waiting for the actual permit issued by DEP. Mr. Wagner continued to say he spoke with McCarthy Engineering late this afternoon and they will reach out to the DEP on the status of the GP-3 Permit later this week. Mr. Toth asked when we intend to do the work, Mr. Wagner explained that it is considered a maintenance project so once we get the permit he will reach out to H&K and other contractors to obtain pricing. We are looking to perform the work during the summer months when the creek is low.

##### **Review of the H2O Grant for a portion of Hilltop Rd.**

Mr. Ebert stated the grant was submitted in the amount of \$1,083,433.00, this will be awarded in June/July. Mr. Wagner should reach out to our State Representative & Senator to gain some support prior to the award announcement. Mr. Wagner explained that he has a

meeting with Tracy Pennycuick, our new State Senator on February 9<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Ebert will provide information needed prior to that meeting.

DISCUSSION ON BOROUGH AUTHORITY – Next meeting January 12<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Wagner stated sludge disposal was \$110,000.00 for the month of December, which was overall \$845,000, which is \$135,000 over budget. He reminded the group that they had polymer issues, and the dryer went down to account for the overage in the budget. Bulk revenue was down at \$2.7 million compared to \$2.85 million last year. The Borough audit is scheduled for February 20<sup>th</sup>, not sure of the actual totals until the final numbers are provided from the Borough. He also explained that Mr. Carroll will no longer be on the Pottstown Authority Board and a new person will be leading the monthly meetings. Mr. Pence stated that our allocation to the system of 26%, how is that determined that we owe that much. Mr. Ebert explained that number is based on the flow from the township to the borough. He stated that our flows this year were less than last year and believes that the upcoming year will be even less.

DEVELOPERS DISCUSSION & UPDATE – (CAP)—APPROVAL OF CAP/CMP REPORTS

Mr. Ebert explained that at the end of 2022 we had a bunch of work lined up for Sewer Specialties and that unfortunately they had a Covid outbreak and were not able to complete the work. He then stated that the Porter Road Pump Station flowmeter is down, but it is recording but not getting the numbers read. This impacts us being able to track the flows, we have been averaging 37 million gallons for a long time except the 70 million in October. He stated that next month in the Chapter 94 report we will have a detailed summary of the flows for the last five (5) years and their projection for the following five (5) years to see the trends.

Since the Sewer Lateral Ordinance went into effect in July 2022 we have reviewed 124 laterals, 34 identified issues, 27 of those have been repaired and 7 repairs that are still outstanding. Mr. Ebert added our failure rate is higher than he anticipated at 27% but he believes that number will even out. Also, there are ten (10) repairs that are in the public right of way, the township will address with future projects. Mr. Toth asked Mr. Ebert for clarification on the right of way and the easement. Mr. Ebert stated that it is different on every road and depends on where the edge of the easement falls.

Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Watson to explain to the board that none of the laterals on Kepler Road are leaking so there is a good possibility that we will not need to go back and install the T-Liners. He explained that having the tight seal is a huge cost savings as it is approximately \$1,500 a lateral to install the T-Liner.

**Mr. Vlahos arrives at 6:26PM.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution 2022-134 Approving the 2023 Operation Budget

Resolution 2022-135 Approving the 2023 Capital Fund Budget

Resolution 2022-136 Approving the 2023 Quarterly Sewer Rental Fee of \$136.00

Mr. Kalis explained the resolutions are standard yearly resolutions and that there is no change in the sewer rental fee in 2023. He stated that they can make the motion to approve all three (3) resolutions. Mr. Pence verified that there has been no change to the rental fee or late fees. Mr. Loshnowsky made the motion to approve all three resolutions, 2022-134, 2022-135 & 2022-136 and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion, unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Wagner advised to the group that PennDOT will be paving High Street from the intersection of N. Pleasantview to the Berks County Line in West Pottsgrove Township. He stated that this should be let out on March 16<sup>th</sup> and Mr. Watson has identified five (5) castings that will need to be replaced by township. The group discusses the previous paving of High St and that we are only responsible for the portion in our township.

**TREASURERS REPORT**

Mr. Vlahos read the Treasurers' Report Dated December 12, 2022:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sewer Revenue Account       | \$3,872,484.62 |
| Capital Improvement Reserve | \$2,088,658.77 |

He then read the Treasurers' Report Dated January 9, 2023:

|                             |                |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Sewer Revenue Account       | \$3,450,279.21 |
| Capital Improvement Reserve | \$2,167,444.20 |

Mr. Pence made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Loshnowsky seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

**BILLS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Kalis read the Bills for Payment as presented for December, they are ready for ratification as they were already paid:

*Capital Invoices:*

- Ebert Engineering, Inc. – Capital Update \$291.06
- McCarthy Engineering – Sanatoga Streambank \$2,136.90
- LRM Flowmeter Porter Rd P.S. \$10,053.15
- Sacks and Sons – Sunnyside Paving \$21,076.40
- Sewer Specialties Services – Payment #64 \$75,497.76

*Operating Account:*

- Fox Rothschild 12/8 \$323.00

- Ebert Engineering 12/7 \$4,665.69

Mr. Toth asked for a motion to ratify the December bills; Mr. Vlahos made the motion and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Kalis then reads the January bills for payment:

*Capital Invoices:*

- McCarthy Engineering – Sanatoga Streambank \$495.00
- Ebert Engineering, Inc. – Capital CMP Updates \$179.50
- Ebert Engineering, Inc. – Sunnyside Ave \$185.50
- Ebert Engineering, Inc. – H2O PA Grant \$648.63
- Borough of Pottstown – Capital Bypass \$14,354.00
- Almeida & Hudak – Payment# 2 \$34,580.45

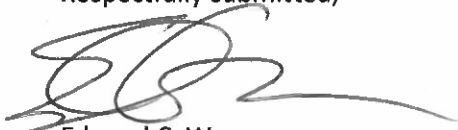
*Operating Account:*

- Fox Rothschild \$874.00
- Ebert Engineering \$2,182.69

Mr. Vlahos made a motion to pay the bills as presented and Mr. Pence seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Pence made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 6:38 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February, 13 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,



Edward C. Wagner  
Authority Manager