

LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY JUNE 12, 2023

The Lower Pottsgrove Township Authority held their Regular Monthly Meeting on Monday June 12, 2023. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm, the following attended:

James Toth – Chairman	Edward Wagner – Manager
Sean Pence – Vice Chairman	James Vlahos – Treasurer
Joe McGeehan – Member	Mark Loshnowsky – Secretary – Absent
Fred Ebert – Engineer	Stephen Kalis – Solicitor
Tim Watson – Sewer Operator	Ashlea Bullock

Mr. Toth announced that this meeting is being recorded.

APPROVAL OF AUTHORITY MINUTES: Mr. Toth requested a motion to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes and Mr. McGeehan made the motion and Mr. Toth seconded the motion and the minutes were approved with a 4-0 vote.

OLD BUSINESS

MONTHLY UPDATE ON THE PRIVATE SEWER LATERAL INSPECTION PROGRAM

Mr. Wagner stated we had 26 inspections, 11 failures at a 46% failure rate and the most common failure reason is cleanout/vent are below grade. Mr. Ebert stated that we are seeing a huge impact already because we are seeing historic lows in our sewer flows. He also advised we have not had much rain to have an impact on the flows. Ms. Bullock explained to Mr. Pence that the orange coded properties on the spreadsheet are the properties that have failed and are still outstanding therefore have not received approval.

UPDATE ON THE SEWER MAIN LINER PROJECTS

Mr. Watson explained to the group that the Porter Road liner project was completed, the flows have drastically dropped because of the liner installation. Mr. Watson explained that the 30-inch main pulled away from the shear wall of the pump station. Mr. Watson stated that they used horsehair to close the gap then sprayed the liner in place in order to seal the gap. Mr. McGeehan questioned the use of oakum, stating that it is ancient technology. Mr. Ebert stated that this is the best way to stop the leak and allow them time to spray the liner. Mr. Wagner stated that the Kepler Road project is done except for the t-liners. There are a majority of laterals that will require t-liners to be installed.

Mr. Pence questioned the plan for the wet well at Porter Rd. Mr. Watson explained that they thought the wall was leaking but it was the sump pump spraying along the wall. Mr. Wagner stated that we did not have to buy a new manhole cone by using Mr. Watson's method of heating the rapid seal up first before trying to separate it. Mr. Wagner stated they were there for three (3) days, their original bill was \$9,990.00 with an additional \$2,000.00 for the extra day of work, he has not received the bill yet. All agreed that MGK was very good and easy to work with.

PAYMENT REQUEST #1 FOR CONSTRUCTION MASTERS SERVICES (CMS) FOR \$85,285.00 FOR THE SANATOGA LAKE STREAMBANK PROJECT

Mr. Wagner stated the project went extremely well and was completed in a little over three (3) days. The total project was \$85,285.00 for the contractor, \$16,159.00 for the rock, for a grand total of \$101,444.00. This puts this project under budget by \$63,500. Mr. Pence verified that there are no outstanding items to be completed and Mr. Watson verified they left it in better condition than they found it. Mr. Pence made the motion to approve the payment request to CMS of Reading, Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously 4-0 to approve.

MOTION TO AWARD THE HILLTOP ROAD SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT TO JOAO & BRADLEY FOR \$367,775.00

Mr. Ebert explained that surprisingly they had seven (7) bids come in for this project, ranging from \$367,775 to \$672,000 with the engineer estimate to be \$551,795. He explained that Joao & Bradley are good contractors to work with and they fit our schedule. Mr. Ebert mentioned they have completed the N. Valley Road and the second phase of Woodland Drive in the last three years for the Authority. Mr. Pence asked if we have a grant for this, Mr. Wagner stated that is for the next phase of Hilltop Road. Mr. Ebert and Mr. Wagner highly recommended working with this contractor. Mr. Pence made the motion to award the Hilltop Road sewer replacement project to Joao & Bradley of Bethlehem for \$367,775 and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and the group voted unanimously 4-0.

DISCUSSION ON BOROUGH AUTHORITY MAY/JUNE 15TH MEETING

Mr. Wagner stated sludge disposal year to date is \$343,667 which approximately \$83,000 under budget. Bulk revenue is \$1,050,000, which is approximately \$40,000 less than last year. He also explained the Borough has not received the final 2022 fiscal audit, so we do not have the final figures on the WTPP Operation & Maintenance.

Mr. Wagner stated that in the discussion of the 15-year capitol plan for 2024/2025, we are currently responsible for 26.28% of our costs. He stated that this year we will be paying approximately \$200,000 for capital improvement projects but next year this may increase to \$1.1 million. Mr. Toth questioned the increase to which Mr. Wagner explained they want a belt filter press and a UV storage disinfection system. Mr. Ebert then explained that they want to use the UV disinfection to get rid of the chlorine disinfection. There are two reasons to make the switch, first being the cost of chlorine and second is the workers safety. Mr. McGeehan asked what the return on investment is and Mr. Ebert explained they are projecting 3 years. He also explained that chemical costs are astronomical which is a driving factor to get the belt filter press in order to reduce the cost of polymer. He also believes that these changes will stabilize the O&M budget so that we do not have monthly increases. The return on investment will be on future costs not monthly savings. Mr. Wagner stated that this is the main topic of discussion and will keep the board informed at the July meeting. They discussed and agreed that reducing our flows is the best way to control cost and reduce our percentage of expenses.

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

Mr. Ebert stated thus far there are no SSO events in 2023. In addition, he stated that we mailed out letters to all the private sewer systems explaining to them that they must televise their laterals in 2024, get a budget ready for any repairs, adjust their rates in 2025 and do the repair work in 2026. We will send a reminder/follow up letters in September 2023, so they are aware in time for preparing their yearly fiscal budgets.

Mr. Ebert stated that our flows have been down about 42 million gallons during the months of April & May. He stated in comparison to last year's Chapter 94, our percentages are similar, but we didn't start our project until the summer and the sewer lateral program started in July. He is hopeful that when we have a wet spell it will show the improvements are working. He stated the biggest thing is the reduction of SSOs and that we are pumping everything.

NEW BUSINESS

CHAPTER 94 2022 MUNICIPAL WASTELOAD MANAGEMENT REPORT

Mr. Ebert stated the flows from 2021 to 2022 are the same, however the second half of 2022, the flows have been significantly down and continue to be thus far in 2023. This will lead us to ask DEP officials for additional EDUs in the future. Mr. Pence asked Mr. Ebert to explain how the percentages are calculated. Mr. Ebert explained that they take the meter flows from our facility minus the flows that flow into Lower Pottsgrove, then that number is used to find the percentage of the total flows coming out of the treatment plant. He also explained that when the pump went down at Sanatoga Lake, they estimated the numbers based on old data. Since the pump was replaced, he plans to look at the first six (6) months of 2023 and provide feedback at the July meeting. Mr. Pence and Mr. Ebert discussed that this being such a dry year, it will be hard to get a clear picture of the success. Mr. Ebert explained that he expected the percentage to be lower. Mr. Wagner asked Mr. Watson if we have come close to overflowing at Porter Rd station and Mr. Watson stated that one of the large pumps has not run, except for the normal exercise cycle.

REVIEW THE SEWER OPERATOR TRUCK PROPOSAL

Mr. Wagner stated that he provided a copy of the 2023 budget which shows that we budgeted \$60,000.00 in 2023 and 2024 to buy a new truck F550 for the sewer operator. Mr. Watson explained to the board that prices have increased significantly, the body of the truck alone is \$115,178 and the chassis is \$67,920 for a total price of \$183,098. He explained to the board that this is a crane truck with 6,000-pound hydraulic crane that will enable him to get the pumps in and out of the stations more efficiently. He stated that this truck has all the safety and mechanical features that he needs to effectively run the sewer system. Mr. Pence asked the timeframe for the truck build and Mr. Wagner stated a year. They then discuss the quoting process and selling of the current sewer truck to offset some of the costs. The group discussed the price of the truck and were disappointed in the significant increase. Mr. Vlahos thought the chassis price was fair, but the body price was ridiculously high. Mr. Vlahos stated that this truck seems to be what Tim needs and will make his job easier. Mr. Pence made a motion to approve the purchase of the truck not to exceed \$183,098.00 but requests

additional quotes for comparison. Mr. Toth stated we know that it is a ridiculous price, but we want to confirm that it is a ridiculous price. Mr. Vlahos seconded the motion and the group votes unanimously to approve 4-0.

DISCUSSION ON THE CONTROLLER REPLACEMENT AT PORTER ROAD PUMP STATION

Mr. Wagner stated that we are waiting for quotes. Mr. Watson stated that we can piece together the parts needed to fix the controller so that it stays under budget and spread it out over the next few years. We hope to have the quote for the July meeting,

TREASURERS REPORT

Mr. Vlahos read the Treasurers Report for June 12, 2023:

Mr. Vlahos stated the Treasurers Report/Bills for payment look nice and he appreciates the new format provided by Michele Hogrelius.

Sewer Revenue Account	\$3,809,132.17
Capital Improvement Reserve	\$1,877,663.55

Mr. McGeehan made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Mr. Pence seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

BILLS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Kalis read the bills for payment:

Capital Invoices:

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| • Ebert Engineering, Inc. – 5/8 Capital Engineering | \$122.88 |
| • WG Malden – Installation of new output card at Sanatoga Lake PS | \$1,009.00 |
| • Douglasville Quarry – Sanatoga Bank Stabilization RIP-RAP | \$16,159.67 |
| • McCarthy Engineering – 5/28 Sanatoga Bank Stabilization Engineering | \$4,839.54 |
| • Sewer Specialties Services – Payment #69 | \$72,544.50 |
| • Borough of Pottstown – Hydraulic Bypass Project & RAS Valve Replacement | \$94,470.00 |
| • Sanatoga Quarry – 2A Material for Liner Project | \$217.74 |
| • Construction Masters – App #1 | \$85,285.00 |
| • Ebert Engineering – 6/8 Capital Engineering | \$9,950.58 |

Operating Account:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| • Ebert Engineering – 5/8 Auth Engineering | \$6,403.89 |
| • Dallas Data – April 2023 Billing | \$2,469.08 |
| • PECO – PS Electric | \$5,551.09 |
| • Ebert Engineering – 6/8 Auth Engineering | \$2,124.89 |
| • Kappe Associates – Sanatoga Lake PS Maintenance | \$1,200.00 |

Mr. Toth asked for a motion to pay the bills; Mr. Vlahos made the motion and Mr. McGeehan seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved with a 4-0 vote.

Mr. Toth made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 6:48 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Township Building.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Wagner', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Edward C. Wagner
Authority Manager