

WEST GOSHEN SEWER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
June 6, 2018
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of the West Goshen Sewer Authority was held on Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at the West Goshen Township Administration Building. Those present were:

<u>Authority</u>	<u>Unruh, Turner</u>	<u>Administration</u>	<u>HRG</u>
Theodore Murphy	Ross Unruh	Mike Moffa	Josh Fox
Tina Smith		Casey Lalonde	
Dan Tierney			
Phil Corvo			
Shaun Walsh			

1. The regular meeting of the Authority was called to order at 7:05 PM by Ted Murphy.
2. The Authority meeting minutes for May 2, 2018 were motioned for approval by Phil Corvo, seconded by Tina Smith. Approved 5-0.
3. Authority Chair and Member Announcements:
Ted Murphy advised:
 - a) The Agreement for Optimum Controls Corporation to provide professional consulting services for the programming of the ECA and Anaerobic Digester control panels had been approved by the Authority's solicitor
 - b) The Authority had been asked by a resident to confirm the Right of Way access at 1027 Wiggins Way and Pines at Ashbridge for the Authority to perform the sewer lining project work. A title search on the property by Manito Title confirmed the easement

The Authority discussed the need to change the date of the regular meetings for July (Holiday) & August (member availability).
Agreed new dates were:
July meeting: Thursday, July 12th @ 7:00 pm
August meeting: Wednesday, August 8th @ 7:00 pm
Casey Lalonde to publically advertise new dates
4. Wastewater Superintendent Report for the month of May was presented by Mike Moffa.
 - a. The treatment plant operated in compliance with the NPDES permit
 - b. Treated 148 million gallons of wastewater. Average of 4.8 mgpd
 - c. Pressed for disposal 307 tons of solid waste
 - d. The treatment plant experienced an overflow on Saturday, May 12th. Weather related loss of power resulted in treatment system shutdowns and the automatic phone call out for the alarmed state failed to operate. The discharge was reported to PA DEP
 - e. Staff had completed a comparison chart of Quarterly Sewer Rates for all municipalities in Chester County. Both the current and the proposed recommended rate for West Goshen are in the bottom 20%

5. Solicitor's Report was presented by Ross Unruh.
 - a) A meeting with DOJ, EPA and DRN had taken place earlier that afternoon to review the proposed Settlement Agreement for the TMDL litigation. Key issues raised in the meeting were:
 - i. The time required to get the CoMag system built and operational
 - ii. The total nitrogen in the discharge
 - iii. EPA requires a limit of 0.1 mg/L Phosphorus year round, not just in the growing season
 - iv. The offer by the Authority to provide a riparian buffer along the creek edge on the WWTP property

The Authority discussed the details of the stream buffer and the anticipated cost of \$75,000. Additional state funds have recently been made available under the MS4 program. Ted Murphy motioned to move forward with the riparian buffer project and to prepare and submit an MS4 program grant application by the 6/20 deadline to fund the cost. Seconded by Dan Tierney. Approved 5-0.

Further review meetings with DOJ, EPA and DRN are scheduled with the goal of reaching agreed terms and language for the Settlement Agreement

- b) Ross Unruh informed the Authority that the Sewage Treatment Agreement document had been finalized with West Whiteland Township and was ready for signature by the Township Boards. Tina Smith raised concerns with the language in section 4.04. Shaun Walsh stated he did not believe the language was clear that capital replacement in-kind due to system failure from age, or other reasons, was included. Ross Unruh stated that prior precedents had established this and that the municipalities understood this to be the case. The Authority agreed that the document should move forward for Board approvals, but asked that the Solicitor subsequently seek a clarifying amendment (with all municipalities) to include in Article I – Definitions specific definitions for the terms Intensification, Modification & Improvement.

Shaun Walsh motioned to approve the Sewage Treatment Agreement (West Whiteland) and to proceed with Township Board approvals. Seconded by Dan Tierney. Approved 5-0
Shaun Walsh motioned to have the SA Solicitor discuss with each municipality an amendment to Section 1.01 of the Sewer Treatment Agreements to provide definitions for the terms Intensification, Modification & Improvement. Seconded by Ted Murphy. Approved 5-0

- c) Discussions with Westtown on their Agreement are currently stalled. Differences remain on the designation of capital vs. O&M designation for each project item. The Authority agreed to discuss at a future meeting if litigation should proceed.

6. Treasurers Report dated June 6, 2018 was presented by Dan Tierney (See report for details)

- a) Ted Murphy motioned to approve, as Requisition #113 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 13 as submitted by Walabax Construction Services Inc., in the amount of \$118,556.20 for work completed through May 18th, 2018 for Contract 17-1. Seconded by Phil Corvo. Approved 5-0.
- b) Phil Corvo motioned to approve as Requisition #116 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 5 as submitted by Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$214,398.90 for work completed through May 16th, 2018 for Contract 17-3 (General Construction). Seconded by Tina Smith. Approved 5-0

- c) Phil Corvo motioned to approve as Requisition #117 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 3 as submitted by Garden Spot Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$104,557.50 for work completed through May 17th, 2018 for Contract 17-6 (Electrical Construction). Seconded by Dan Tierney. Approved 5-0
 - d) Shaun Walsh motioned to approve as Requisition #118 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 2 as submitted by GEM Mechanical Services, in the amount of \$6,750.00 for work completed through May 17th, 2018 for Contract 17-6. Seconded by Tina Smith. Approved 5-0
 - e) Phil Corvo motioned to approve as Requisition #115 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 4 as submitted by Eastern Environmental Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$53,761.50 for work completed through May 14th, 2018 for Contract 17-8 (General Construction). Seconded by Shaun Walsh. Approved 5-0
 - f) Dan Tierney motioned to approve as Requisition #114 from the Bond Construction Fund, Application for Payment No. 2 as submitted by The Williams Group Electrical Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$13,630.58 for work completed through May 15th, 2018 for Contract 17-9 (Electrical Construction). Seconded by Ted Murphy. Approved 5-0.
 - g) Dan Tierney motioned to approve for payment, Requisitions #119 through #133 from the Bond Construction Fund, plus Tapping Fee Fund Requisitions of \$42,398.04 and Developer's Invoices of \$7,629.43. Seconded by Shaun Walsh. Approved 5-0.
7. Developers Report, dated June 1, 2018 was reviewed by Josh Fox (See report for details).
 8. Engineers Report dated June 1, 2018 was reviewed by Josh Fox (See report for details).
 - a) The installation of the Anaerobic Digester wall is scheduled for June 12th.
 9. Further Authority review of West Goshen Rate Study by HRG.

The key discussion outcomes were:

 - a) The Authority continued to endorse the concept of a joint public workshop with the Township BoS and the Sewer Authority members. This would be beneficial to developing common understanding and enable a review of the details and the complexities of the proposed rate increase options. The suggested timing for this meeting was revised to be either August 22nd or 29th, with 8/22 preferred. The meeting would commence at 6:00 pm. Kevin Fox, HRG, would attend.
 - b) It was agreed that a sub-committee be formed with Josh Fox, Tina Smith & Shaun Walsh to participate in final development of the paper/presentation and in determining the meeting process and presenters for the public workshop described in 9 a). Casey Lalonde would ask Robin Stuntebeck if she would be willing to be part of the sub-committee.
 - c) The funding amount of the CRF continued to be debated by the Authority. The ageing collection system is likely to continue to require repairs in future years beyond the current 4-year capital investment program (2016 to 2019). The cost of the sanitary sewer system repairs has been funded at \$0.5 to \$1.0 million annually during this 4-year period. In addition, lower priority pump station rehabilitation has not been included in the current capital investment program, but anticipated costs in the years

ahead are approx. \$1.8 million.

- d) Bond Counsel had confirmed that since it is the Township that receives the funds from the sewer rates and only pays the Authority the necessary rent to service the bond debt of the Authority, the Township can retain additional monies in both a level-funded CRF and the Township Sewer Fund and does not need to transfer excess funds to an Authority BR&IF.
- e) Chairman Ted Murphy solicited a vote from each Authority member on which rate increase option they would recommend to the Township Board of Supervisors based on the information previously presented and discussions to date. The outcome was that a majority vote (3 versus 2) was for Option 1 (2019 one-time \$32/qtr increase to residential sewer rate to \$97/qtr) to be the primary recommendation to the Board. Option 2 (2019 one-time \$40/qtr increase to residential sewer rate to \$105/qtr) was the secondary recommendation. Both options will be presented to the Board with Option 1 as the recommended rate increase by the Sewer Authority.

10. Any Other Business

Resident Margie Swart asked if the gun range adjacent to the WWTP could somehow impact compliance for the site discharge or TDML. Josh Fox explained that any lead contamination would be in the soil and the WWTP site discharge is meeting the NPDES requirements for metal concentrations including lead. The TDML is a limitation on Phosphorus.

Resident Margie Swart asked about the sewer fees currently being paid by Chester County Hospital. Casey Lalonde responded that CCH has a sewer bill of approx. \$8k per quarter paid to West Goshen, with the older part of the hospital discharging to the West Chester Borough system.

Resident Dr. Doug White enquired if the Woodlands at Greystone development would have a significant impact on sewer revenue. Shaun Walsh responded that although it is a substantial development when fully realized, the additional 500 to 600 properties would only represent in the order of a 5% to 8% increase in residential units connected to the West Goshen sewer treatment system.

Resident Tom Casey asked if the Authority was aware that West Chester Borough recently approved evaluating strategic options, including sale/leaseback, for its sewer system and could the WG Sewer Authority purchase the system. Ross Unruh added that WCB Public Works had authorized HRG to perform an evaluation to determine the fair market value of the system and the pros/cons of potential sale/lease options. Ted Murphy stated that the WGSA was not a regional sewer authority and did not have the remit to consider being an acquiring body for the WCB system

There being no other business, Ted Murphy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM, seconded by Shaun Walsh. Approved 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Shaun Walsh, Secretary