

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Derry held in the Authority office at 620 N. Chestnut Street, Derry, PA on Wednesday, July 17, 2019.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 o'clock, p.m. with the following members answering the Roll Call: Mr. Peter A. Checca, Chairman; Mr. Fredrick D. Goodman, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Richard K. Thomas, Secretary; and Mr. Daniel D. Chaney; Treasurer; and Mr. Grant A. Nicely, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Also, in attendance were Authority Manager, Amy Forsha, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso Esq., of Dodaro, Matta, and Cambest. Engineer Mark Gera of Gibson-Thomas Engineering, Inc was absent from tonight's meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Thomas the minutes of the regular meeting of June 19, 2019 were presented for approval and all members voted in favor.

Visitors

Jeremy Stein on 401 Leo Street said that on July 11th his backflow preventer took 150 psi of sewage flow and did a release which then resulted in his basement flooding with 8-9" of sewage. He also stated that a plug in his basement drain was destroyed by sewage flow coming in. He addressed the Board and asked what was being done to eliminate sewage backups on Owens Ave. Mr. Stein said he won't be able to sell his house because of his recurrent sewer backups. Grant asked him if he had spoken with Gina at Petraraca's office. Jeremy stated that he has and said that the responsibility is on the Borough or the Water Authority. Jeremy stated that he plans to hire an attorney if nothing is done to correct this issue. Grant asked him if he had this issue before the bridge was constructed and Jeremy stated that he did have backups before the bridge but it has gotten worse since the bridge was installed. Grant stated that he is concerned that when Penn DOT built the bridge in, that they connected the catch basins to the sanitary sewer lines. Mr. Checca agrees and stated that he also spoke with Gina and she was assured that Plum Construction did everything correctly. Mrs. Forsha stated that she has televised many of the lines and haven't found any defects. Mr. Stein feels that someday it's going to flood when he's not home and he's going to lose his house. Mrs. Forsha stated that Derry Township Municipal Authority (DTMA) who owns the Elmadale Pump Station experiences a huge increase of flow during heavy rains even though their customers and pvc lateral and the sewer main is pvc. Mrs. Forsha said she plans to investigate the catch basins within Derry Township in the Elmadale area and dye test them to make sure none of them are connected into the sanitary. Mrs. Forsha also stated that DTMA also conducts point of sale sewer lateral inspections. Mrs. Forsha said the Owens Ave area has had basement flooding since the 1980s and in 2008 the Borough separated out the sanitary lines and the storm lines within the Fourth Ward and that much of the flooding has improved but there are still issues on Owens Ave. Mrs. Forsha also stated that she has done smoke testing within the Fourth Ward and no catch basins were connected to the sanitary. Mrs. Forsha stated that most of the inflow comes from water getting in and around homes foundations and then into their basement drains our foundation drains. Mrs. Forsha suggested that Jeremy might want to look into disconnecting his basement drain from the sanitary line and have his sewer line come out of his house from the rafters in his basement. The Board members also stated that it may not be the bridge causing and issue but may just be because of the new weather pattern with the heavy downpours. Mr. Goodman asked if the new catch basins on the bridge were draining toward Wineman Way. Mrs. Forsha stated that they all discharge down toward ICI near the trash rack. Mr. Stein said that his backflow company agreed to replace his backflow preventer this one time but told him they won't replace it any more in the future for free and it would cost him \$4,000. Mr. Stein is also upset that his insurance rates have went up due to the many claims he has been filing for sewer backups. Mrs. Forsha said that the sanitary sewer line in Wineman Way/Chestnut Street area used to have a combined sewer overflow and it was

removed during the project in 2008. Mrs. Forsha said that she spent \$6,000 on additional pumps so that the Authority can be ready to bypass pump at the manhole at Wineman/Chestnut Street but the residents need to call her and report when sanitary sewage is starting to come up their basement drains. She said a lot of times the sewer plant will alarm due to high flows but the basements won't be flooding. Mrs. Forsha stated that she is never informed of the basement backups from residents unless the firemen contact her. Mr. Thomas suggested installing a level indicator in the manhole but Mrs. Forsha stated that she would need to have communications installed so that it could remotely notify her. Mr. Nicely suggested a fully automatic system that would kick on pumps once the sewage reached a certain level. Mrs. Forsha stated that such a system would never be approved by the DEP. Mrs. Forsha stated that the engineers are to shoot elevations to determine if a bypass line could be installed along Wineman Way to direct some of the flow another direction. Mrs. Forsha said the bypass line would be approximately 150 feet long. Mrs. Forsha also suggested going around to every home and making all of the homeowners daylight their downspouts. The Board felt that daylighting all the downspouts may cause icing issues in the winter and flooding of neighboring properties. Mrs. Forsha said based on all the information she's learned at conferences most of the inflow comes from foundation drains and broken sanitary sewer laterals under basement floors. Next Barbara Phillips and Jerris Weller of 241 West Owens Ave stated that they got water in their basement also on July 11th but they weren't home so they don't know where the water came from. They stated that their backflow device held and they think it was just foundation water that ended up soaking their basement floor. Mrs. Phillips stated that she lived in her house for 19 years and never had issues in her basement. She stated it was always dry and that's why they decided to finish the basement. They too have had an insurance increase due to a sewer backup claim. They said they used their insurance money to install a sump pump and backflow preventer. In addition, their floor is damaged and the bottoms of their walls but they have no insurance money left to make the repairs.

Correspondence

Mrs. Forsha presented a letter from Matthew Hantz of 123 East Second Street who requested relief for a leaking toilet. After discussion, Mr. Goodman made a motion to grant him a 50% credit and Mr. Chaney seconded with all members voting in favor. Next, Mrs. Forsha presented a letter from Katherine Heenthal of 104 Clifton Street requested relief for a water break under her trailer. After review Mr. Nicely made a motion to grant her a 50% credit and Mr. Thomas seconded with all members voting in favor.

Water Bills for June 2019 in the amount of \$100,739.14 and Sewer Bills in the amount of \$68,928.01 were presented for payment. On a motion put forth by Mr. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Thomas, all members voted to pay the bills

The Water Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance on May 31, 2019 of \$106,337.65 with deposits of \$141,008.11 and less expenses of \$100,739.14 leaving a reconciled balance of \$146,606.62 for June 30, 2019 was presented by Mrs. Forsha. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was offered by Mr. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Chaney. All members voted to accept the treasurer's report, as presented.

Next Mrs. Forsha presented the Sewer Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance on May 31 of \$130,016.04 with deposits of \$58,102.61 and less expenses of \$68,928.01 leaving a reconciled balance of \$119,190.64 for June 30, 2019. Mr. Thomas moved and seconded by Mr. Chaney to accept the treasurer's report and attach the same as an exhibit and that the same be incorporated by reference and be made part of these minutes. Upon motion duly made and seconded, it was unanimously approved.

The Manager's Water & Sewer Reports were presented by Mrs. Forsha. Included in her detailed monthly reports, Manager Forsha commented on the condition of Ethel Lake and the total gallons of potable water pumped for last month. The costs associated with operating the pump house and the sewage plant were announced and also included was an equipment report on mileage and fuel consumption. The finished water turbidity reading of .023 NTU was also announced.

A written Engineer's Report was presented

Mrs. Forsha presented Pay Estimate #3 from Bob Biter Electrical in the amount of \$10,404.21. On a motion by Mr. Goodman, seconded by Mr. Thomas the pay estimate was approved with all members voting in favor.

The Solicitor's Report

Mr. Dalfonso informed the Board that he has been working on recording rights of ways for the North Chestnut Street Waterline Project.

Water Old Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that the North Chestnut Street waterline replacement project is underway and that the contractor is working on the borings.

Sewer Old Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that Richard Santella corrected a sewer lateral at 507 West Third Ave which was connected into the storm sewer. Mrs. Forsha also mentioned that RIch Santella is completing several other spot repairs on the sanitary sewer lines.

Sewer Department New Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that plans and permits are in place to begin the repairs of the broken sewer line in the middle of McGee Run behind the Borough Building.

Next, Mrs. Forsha presented two quotes to rebuild the rotary distributor on one of the biotowers. After review of the two quotes Mr. Chaney made a motion to accept Envirodyne's quote of \$16,683.28 and Mr. Nicely seconded with all members voting in favor.

Stormwater Department

Mrs. Forsha presented a revised storm water budget in which the storm department will pay 10% of administrative costs. In addition, the Board discussed whether or not they should transfer the 3rd Street Box Culvert loan over to the stormwater. Based on the proposed budget there would not be enough money in the storm department to pay for the loan. After discussion, the Board decided to leave the loan with the sanitary sewer department and reevaluate in 3 year. Mr. Nicely made a motion to approve the budget and Mr. Chaney seconded with all members voting in favor.

Next, Mrs. Forsha presented a copy of commercial stormwater fees for several commercial properties within the Borough. Mrs. Forsha suggested that the Board review the fees and decide if they wanted to set a max Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU) to cap the fee at since some of the commercial properties will be getting a large bill. After discussion the Board decided not to institute a cap at this time. Mrs. Forsha stated that she is afraid that a high monthly storm water fee will be detrimental for existing and future businesses within the Borough. Mrs. Forsha stated that the office has been busy with setting up the new storm accounts. In addition, Mrs. Forsha asked the Board if they wanted to exempt Borough and

Municipal Authority properties from the storm fee. After discussion, the Board agreed to not charge the Borough or the Authority storm fees. In addition the Board also decided not to charge the cemetery.

Mr. Nicely made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14pm o'clock and Mr. Chaney seconded with all members voting in favor.

*Mr. Richard K. Thomas
Secretary*