

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, November 18, 2020.

The zoom meeting was called to order at 7:00 o'clock, p.m. with the following members answering the Roll Call: Mr. Richard K. Thomas, Chairman; Mr. Grant A. Nicely, Vice Chairman; Mr. Peter A. Checca, Secretary; and Mrs. Sara Cowan, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Also, in attendance were Authority Manager, Amy Forsha, Solicitor Samuel Dalfonso Esq., of Dodaro, Matta, and Cambest, and Engineer, William Glasser of Gibson-Thomas Engineering. Mr. Joseph V. Serrao Jr., Treasurer was absent from tonight's meeting.

On a motion by Mr. Checca and seconded by Mr. Nicely the minutes of the regular meeting of October 21, 2020 were presented for approval and all members voted in favor.

Visitors

The following visitors attended out of concern for the sanitary sewer basement backups that are occurring on West Owens Ave, Leo Street and Ridge Ave: Barbara Phillips of 241 West Owens Ave and Jeremy Stein of 401 Leo Street. Mrs. Phillips read a prepared statement in which she expressed her frustration with the continued sewer backups on West Owens Ave and the lack of a resolution to the problem.

Zach D'Amico of the Latrobe Bulletin was also present.

Correspondence

Mrs. Forsha presented a letter from Kurtis Miller of 231 Erma Drive who requested relief due to a water leak on his property. Mr. Miller received a water bill of \$3,058.40. After review Mr. Nicely made a motion to grant Mr. Miller a 50% credit, and Mrs. Cowan seconded with all members voting in favor. Next, Mrs. Forsha presented a letter from Jonna Frenchik of 720 East First Ave who also requested relief due to a high water bill. After review, Mrs. Cowan made a motion to grant Mrs. Frenchik a 25% refund, and Mr. Nicely seconded with all members voting in favor. Mrs. Forsha also read a letter from Ramon Almanza of 423 West 1st Ave who also requested relief due to a leaking toilet. After review, Mr. Checca made a motion to grant him a 25% credit, and Mrs. Cowan seconded with all members voting in favor. Lastly, Mrs. Forsha presented a letter from the DEP in response to the Authority's request to reconnect that sanitary sewer overflow along Wineman Way and Church Way to help alleviate basement backups on West Owens Ave. The DEP stated in their letter that they cannot permit an SSO (Sanitary Sewer Overflow). In addition, the DEP requested that the Authority revise their corrective action plan to prioritize investigation of the 4th Ward's sanitary sewer lines. The DEP stated that they would like the homes within the 4th Ward dye tested and smoke tested. In addition, the DEP stated that the Authority should televise the sanitary sewer lines within the 4th Ward during rain events and consider flow metering the storm sewer system. Mrs. Forsha said she is working on a response to the DEP's letter. Mrs. Forsha stated that the Authority has already been doing many of the things that the DEP is requesting be done. Mrs. Forsha stated that the Authority has smoke tested the 4th Ward already but would like to resmoke test it during dry weather. Mrs. Forsha also mentioned that the Authority completed a 6-month flow metering study of the sanitary lines. Mrs. Forsha stated that the Authority

doesn't have any control over the flow coming from Derry Township's Elmadale pump station. Mr. Thomas asked manager Forsha if the Authority should consider installing a storm system and provide stormwater service to each home within the 4th Ward to eliminate excess water in the storm system. Manager Forsha said that she noticed that homes that have their stormwater sources disconnected still have a lot of groundwater entering their terracotta sewer laterals. She stated that it would be more beneficial to have homeowners replace the sewer line from their basements out and Mr. Gera agreed. Mrs. Forsha said that either the homeowners will have to update their sanitary lines on their properties or the Authority will have to build holding tanks for the excess stormwater. Mr. Gera said that Johnstown is requiring homeowners to replace their laterals under their basement slabs and it is a very expensive proposition. In addition, Mr. Gera stated that the MS4 Program discourages additional stormlines and promotes management of stormwater onlot. Mrs. Cowan asked Manager Forsha if she told the residents within the 4th ward that replacing all of their sanitary sewer laterals with PVC would help their flooding. Mrs. Forsha said she hasn't because the line replacement would need to be system wide and not on an individual basis.

Water Old Business:

Water Bills for October 2020 in the amount of \$109,653.52 and Sewer Bills in the amount of \$46,808.25 and Storm Bills in the amount of \$3,478.99 were presented for payment. On a motion put forth by Mr. Checca and seconded by Mrs. Cowan, all members voted to pay the bills.

The Water Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance on September 30, 2020 of \$25,501.39 with deposits of \$123,744.34 and less expenses of \$109,653.52 leaving a reconciled balance of \$39,592.21 for October 31, 2020 was presented by Mrs. Forsha. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was offered by Mrs. Cowan and seconded by Mr. Nicely and all members voted to accept the treasurer's report, as presented.

Next, Mrs. Forsha presented the Storm Treasurer's Report showing a checking account balance on September 30, 2020 of \$105,440.79 with deposits of \$12,046.87 and less expenses of \$3,478.99 leaving a reconciled balance of \$114,008.67 for October 31, 2020. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was offered by Mrs. Cowan and seconded by Mr. Nicely and 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 September 30, 2020 of \$189,358.98 with deposits of \$69,594.89 and less expenses of \$46,808.25 leaving a reconciled balance of \$212,145.62 for October 31, 2020. Mrs. Cowan moved and seconded by Mr. Nicely 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 .027 NTU was also announced. Mr. Thomas commented that he noticed that the

electrical costs have dropped over the past year and stated that it is likely due to the new equipment which is more energy efficient.

The Engineer's Report

Mr. Gera stated the Mr. Glasser contacted GeoMechanics and they anticipate having the geotechnical analyses of the Upper and Lower Ridge Dams completed by the beginning of next year. Mrs. Forsha stated that she received notice that Gibson-Thomas submitted the revised H & H Spillway Plan for Ethel Springs Lake. Mark Gera is to check on it and get her a copy of the revised plan.

The Solicitor's Report

Mr. Dalfonso presented his report in executive session.

Water Old Business

Water New Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that she is meeting with Xylem aka Leopold on Friday to discuss replacing the tube settlers with a plate settler system. Mrs. Forsha said that Xylem is willing to provide the equipment at very low cost in exchange for using the Authority as a demo site to try their new equipment. Mrs. Forsha said that she did not have the water draft budget ready but will email it to the members. She stated that she would like to see the Board add a line replacement fee onto the water bills to start generating some funds for replacement of lines since we still have many waterlines in service that are from the 1920s.

Sewer Department Old Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that the 4th Ward Dye testing is 73% completed. In addition, Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that Robinson Pipe will begin their televising on December 7, 2020. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that she also had the opportunity to have the COG televise part of West Owens Ave during a rain event and was able to document which laterals showed more inflow/infiltration than others. Mrs. Forsha also said that she discovered some additional wyes that were not shown on the as-built drawings. One wye near Dorothy and West Owens Ave was put in as a temporary connection for the sanitary line coming down Dorothy Street. Mrs. Forsha said that the joints in a nearby stormline were leaking into this wye and permitting stormwater into the sanitary. Mrs. Forsha said that she contracted with Santella excavating dig up and cap the wye and also replace the storm line.

Sewer Department New Business

Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that Gibson-Thomas is finalizing the design of the sludge press building and that she expects to put the project out to bid very soon. Next, manager Forsha presented the sanitary sewer draft budget. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that she included more money in the budget for televising and line repairs. Mrs. Forsha also mentioned that she would like to add another full-time employee to the sewer department but feels a rate increase would be needed to expand the workforce. Mrs. Forsha estimated the annual cost of a new employee to be \$80,000. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that the employees have not been able to complete a various number of annual water maintenance tasks and stormwater tasks because all of their time is

being consumed by the sanitary sewer dye testing. Mrs. Forsha also stated it would be a good idea to add an employee now so that they can gain the three years' experience required to become a certified operator as the Authority expects 3 operators to retire within the next few years. Mrs. Forsha also stated that the proposed sanitary sewer budget is not funding depreciation. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that one of the main burdens on the sanitary sewer fund is the debt for the Borough's 3rd Street Box Culvert which was paid for by the sanitary sewer department. Mrs. Forsha is also concerned about having funds to keep up with the sanitary sewer repairs as more defects are found with more televising and investigating. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that just last week 4 broken sanitary sewer laterals were discovered under the street. Mrs. Forsha informed the Board that the rates have remained unchanged since 2014.

Stormwater Department Old Business

Manager Forsha also said that plans are underway to correct a home at East Second Ave which has their sanitary connected into the stormwater system also. Mrs. Forsha also said that she found a sanitary sewer line on Heacox Way that is leaking out of the joints and into the storm system. In addition, there were also two homes on East First Ave which are dumping sanitary sewage into the storm system. Mrs. Forsha said that she plans to contract out this repair work.

Stormwater Department New Business

Mrs. Forsha said that Gibson-Thomas is able to revise the pollutant reduction plan from stream bank stabilization projects to installing end of storm sewer system treatment systems for a cost of approximately \$4,000.00. Mrs. Forsha said the revised plan should be ready for public comment by the end of 2020. Mrs. Forsha also presented the stormwater draft budget. Mrs. Cowan asked why postage and office expenses were taken out of the stormwater department. Mrs. Forsha stated that storm pays 10% of administrative costs, sanitary sewer 30%, and water 60%. Mrs. Forsha said that it is set up this way to be fair to all departments.

Mr. Checca made a motion to enter into executive session at 8:43pm to discuss the labor negotiations, and Mrs. Cowan seconded with all members voting to enter into executive session.

The Board exited executive session at 7:51pm. On a motion by Mr. Checca, seconded by Mrs. Cowan, all members voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:52 pm.

*Mr. Peter A. Checca
Secretary*