

EAST GOSHEN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
MEETING MINUTES
September 14, 2020

The East Goshen Township Municipal Authority held their regular meeting on Monday, September 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm. Due to restrictions caused by the COVID-19 virus, the meeting was held via electronic conferencing Zoom. Members in attendance were: Chairman Phil Mayer, Jack Yahraes, Dana Pizarro, Kevin Cummings and Walter Wujcik. Also in attendance were: Jon Altshul (Township Asst. Manager), Mark Miller (Director of Public Works), Mike Ellis (Pennoni), Robert Jefferson (Gawthrop), Michael Lynch (Township Supervisor); Scott Towler (Plant Operator)

COMMON ACRONYMS:

<i>BFES – Big Fish Environmental Services</i>	<i>MA- Municipal Authority</i>
<i>BOS – Board of Supervisors</i>	<i>NPDES – National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System</i>
<i>CB – Conservancy Board</i>	<i>PC – Planning Commission</i>
<i>DEP – Department of Environmental Protection</i>	<i>PM – Prevention Maintenance</i>
<i>EPA – Environmental protection Agency</i>	<i>PR – Park & Recreation Board</i>
<i>HC – Historical Commission</i>	<i>RCSTP – Ridley Creek Sewer Treatment Plant</i>
<i>I&I – Inflow & Infiltration</i>	<i>SBR – Sequencing Batch Reactor</i>
<i>LCSTP – Lockwood Chase Sewer Treatment Plant</i>	<i>SSO – Sanitary System Overflow</i>
	<i>WAS – Waste Activated Sludge</i>

Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance

Phil called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance. There was a moment of silence to remember our medical and healthcare staffs, troops, veterans and first responders. Phil asked if anyone would be recording the meeting. There was no response.

Chairman’s Report

1. Phil reported that the West Goshen Sewer Plant was in compliance. With the Hurricane there were some overflows. They are working on the design issues with the Westtown Pump Station. They received two grant awards, one from PASWS for \$411,000 and the other from H2OPAWS for \$500,000. Jon asked about the miscellaneous legal expenses. Phil commented that the estimates for the cost of the pump station from 5 months ago are the most recent.

Sewer Reports

1. Director of Public Works, Mark Miller’s report for August 2020:

Monthly Flows: The average daily flow to West Goshen was 739,000 gal/day.

Meters: The meters were read on a daily basis. We did have a problem with the Reservoir Road meter. We tried to reset it, but the problem continued. Allied Control was out on September 3 to calibrate the meters at which time they looked at the Reservoir Road meter and the totalizer was bad. The part has been ordered and will be installed as soon as we receive it.

C.C. Collection: We visited the pump stations on a daily basis. All of the wet wells were washed down due to the high levels during the Hurricane Isaias. John Laidley was called in to reset the FOG Rods, which were out of control due to the high levels from the hurricane. During the storm, the pump stations ran well with no problems to report. All the stations were on emergency power for two days. We hauled fuel to all of the stations until power was restored. We cleaned and televised the lines in Suplee Valley. We called in for a possible

sewer overflow between Meadow Drive and Baldwin Dr. After searching the entire area, nothing was found. We started clearing the sewer right of ways. The work required us to remove downed trees and repair washouts around manholes.

Hurricane Isaias:

The plant held its own. The plant went into storm mode. Our Operator remained on site until the plant went back to normal. Matthew did an outstanding job operating the plant during and after the storm. We lost the Internet and phone service. The plant had to be monitored around the clock. The generators ran for 4 days. We shuttled fuel each day to fill the generators.

I have to say PECO was very responsive. I located two fuses that were destroyed causing our power problems. PECO showed that we had power when we truly didn't. I explained to the emergency operation center that they had two separate problems. The power was restored Friday morning. As of Friday morning, we were still waiting on the internet service. It was restored Saturday morning.

R.C. Collection: The pump station was visited on a daily basis. We ordered the new metering manhole and the new flow meter for Hibberd Lane. The Hurricane kept us busy for days at the pump stations. Both stations were on emergency power for two days. Hershey Mill carried over. We did contact DEP as required. I did not hear anything from DEP. The Hershey Mill generator is up and running. Our generator contractor was on site and he took care of running the generator under load and checking the installation. We cleared the sewer right of ways. After the hurricane, the guys inspected the manholes along the creek.

Ridley Creek Plant: Routine maintenance was performed. We pulled the pumps out of the SBR3 and they were taken to Deckman for repairs. While the tank is down, we will have a contractor sand blast the fittings and piping, primer then paint.

Alarms: We responded to 39 alarms in August.

PA One Calls: We responded to over 70 PA One Calls for the month of August.

Rainfall: 12.76 inches for the month of August.

Lateral Caps: We replaced 8 lateral caps.

2. Pennoni Engineer's Report for August dated September 10, 2020

Invoices – Invoices with summaries were provided under separate cover.

Ridley Creek Sewage Treatment Plant (RCSTP)

- Generator Replacement – No activity by Pennoni since our last report. We will provide construction phase assistance as needed.
- SBR #3 Assessment – We performed a visual condition assessment of the coatings, concrete and piping on August 26, and met with Mark Miller to discuss the assessment and recommended repairs. We also met with Dutchland on September 10 to discuss and schedule the coating repairs. They will recoat the three isolated bubbles that were cut out during our assessment, repair peeling at the top of the coatings and repair bubbling on the floor coating. They plan to start on September 14 and anticipate the work will take 2-3 days.

Note: Dutchland is not charging for the repairs. Mike mentioned that for tank 1, they took some cores and found the concrete was better than expected. He wants to take some cores as samples now to have tested. Phil pointed out that there is a Capital Budget line for linings. Mike is concerned about areas where there is no coating. Mike and Mark will discuss costs.

Tallmadge Drive Sewer Main Replacement

The 2-year maintenance bond period ends March 21, 2021.

I&I Support and Reporting

We coordinated with Mark Miller on locations for five metering locations for the next round of portable metering. The metering will continue in the Ridley Creek collection system and will occur along the interceptor and developments upstream of Bow Tree (where the last metering occurred) to strategically work through the entire collection system.

Ridley Creek Collection System Permanent Meters

We understand that the manhole and permanent meter for the Hibberd Lane location has been ordered. We will provide construction phase assistance as needed.

New Connections

No activity by Pennoni since our last report.

Act 537 Planning – Grant Opportunity

As discussed at the May meeting, the need for an Act 537 Plan Update will be revisited in early 2021.

Willistown Township

No activity by Pennoni since our last report regarding the possible Willistown sewer system sale.

Westtown Way Pump Station

We continued review of documentation including plans, calculations, and engineering estimates for potential value engineering options. We expect to issue a draft comment memo on September 11 for consideration by the Township.

3. Big Fish Environmental Services –

Scott Towler reported that the Ridley Creek sewage treatment plant outfall 001 achieved compliance with the permit discharge limitations for the month of July 2020. Discharge to the Applebrook irrigation lagoon remained online. Chemical usage utilized for pH and total alkalinity remained consistent with previous months. No significant mechanical or operational issues were observed during operation of sludge dewatering equipment or SBR treatment process. There were no odor complaints during the month.

They cleaned up the plant after the hurricane. The peak flow into the SBRs occurred during the hurricane for over 1 million gpd. SBR 3 is being serviced. Upon completion of SBR 3, SBR 4 will be removed from service for cleaning, inspection and repairs. It will remain offline until required for service. He is getting better service from the lab. Two others he looked at would cost 15-20% more and one wouldn't do Tuesday pickup.

Approval of Minutes

Jack moved to approve the August 10, 2020 minutes as amended. Walter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Invoices

Kevin moved to approve payment of the 15 invoices as listed on the agenda totaling \$26,037.97. Walter seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

1. Board of Supervisors – Mike Lynch reported that there will be a live Zoning Board Hearing next week in the Public Works Garage concerning the Malvern Institute.

2. Conservancy Board – Walter mentioned that Keep East Goshen Beautiful Day will be Saturday October 3, 2020.

Financial Reports

Jon Altshul provided the following written report:

In August, the Municipal Authority recorded \$24,047 in revenues (via transfers) and \$19,756 in expenses for a positive variance of \$4,291. As of August 31, the fund balance was \$5,561.

MA Audit Committee – Jon mentioned that through conversations with Walter and Dana the following items were discussed:

1. Quarterly Administrative charge backs are not being approved by the MA. He provided a worksheet that lays out the formula for these charges. Presumably the formula was approved by the MA a decade ago. The current members agreed to the current percentages. They will review these items quarterly.

2. Transfers – Jon explained that they transfer money from the Sewer Operating Fund for either operating expenses or the purchase of new assets. They transfer from the Sewer Capital Reserve Fund for replacement assets.

Phil thanked Walter and Dana for their work on the Audit Committee.

Goals

Goals for 2020 were reviewed.

Old Business

1. Caustic Soda Project – The PA DCED Small Water and Sewer Grant has been awarded for \$152,890.00. Mike Ellis explained that this will be used to change the caustic soda process from manual to automatic. There will be a large tank outside with piping through the wall to the chemical feed pumps to each SBR. The DEP does not require permits only notification. The Township Public Works will do the installation along with sub-contractors. 10 to 15% of the engineering costs will be covered by the grant. Dana moved to accept the proposal for engineer costs for the Caustic Soda Project. Jack seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Mike Lynch thanked Jon for getting this grant.

New Business

1. 2021 Budget – The Proposed Budget for 2021 and the 2021-2025 Capital Improvement Program were discussed. The MA members agreed with the Proposed Budget for 2021.

Adjournment

There being no further business Jack moved to adjourn the meeting. Walter seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, October 12, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Kiefer, Recording Secretary