

TOWNSHIP OF FALLS AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING
October 28, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Township of Falls Authority Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, October 28, 2020 at 7:00 P.M.

Salute to the Flag

Roll Call – Anthony Rosso, Chairperson, James Goodwin, Vice Chairperson, Brian Binney, Secretary, William Beier, Treasurer, absent and Thomas Miles, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, was present. Michael Levin, Authority Solicitor, present and James Bulicki, Authority Engineer, Vanessa Nedrick were present. Timothy Hartman, Executive Director, John Ryba, Operations Manager, Megan Parmer, Business Manager and Tammy McAnulty, Recording Secretary, were present.

Solicitor's Report on the Executive Session – Mr. Levin reported that the Executive Session consisted of discussion with Morrisville Municipal Authority regarding future water and sewer services at the US Steel property (Keystone Industrial Port Complex).

Approve Meeting Minutes for September 23, 2020 Meeting – Mr. Binney noted that the discussion regarding the fire hydrant on Falls-Tullytown Rd. should reflect that hydrant is turned around not out of service. Mr. Rosso made a motion to approve the September 23, 2020 meeting minutes as amended. Mr. Binney seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes

Mr. Goodwin Yes
Mr. Rosso Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Public Comment – Ms. Carin Hampton of 260 Guilford Road in Fairless Hills was present to discuss her current water and sewer bill which was \$484.76 which she believes is too high and does not reflect her actual usage. She noted that there is only one person in the home and she did have us out to do a probe on the meter. Mr. Rosso asked if she had checked for any leaks and she responded that she has no leaks. Mr. Ryba reviewed the probe and stated that from looking at the results it appears like it could be a toilet with a flapper that may not be sealing properly all the time. Mr. Rosso asked Ms. Parmer to review past bills and see if there is anything that can be done to lower the bill. Mr. Binney suggested we change the meter out to err on the side of caution.

All in favor to close public comment.

Solicitor's Report – Mr. Levin stated that there has been discussion on the Authority's policy regarding how to bill customers with non-working meters. He noted that currently the Authority sends out a bill reflecting 100,000 gallons of usage which is acceptable since it is done for "shock factor" which in turn prompts the customer to contact the office to schedule an appointment. He added the Authority does not, seek or expect to collect payment for such bills. As an alternative means, Mr. Levin stated the Authority could issue shut-off notices to prompt response from the customer. He stated that this policy could be put in place after two notices have been given. The Board indicated it would prefer to have customers receive two door tag notifications then a shut-off notice. In the meantime, if the bills are going out, the office should estimate the bill and issue a new bill, if needed, after staff has gained access to the meter.

Mr. Goodwin asked if we have resumed shutting off delinquent customers.

Mr. Binney stated that the longer we allow them to go the harder it will be to collect payment. Mr. Hartman noted that the office will resume normal practices allowing for payment arrangements.

Engineer's Report -

TOFA Center Space - Mr. Bulicki is recommending final payment to MJF Electric in the amount of \$6255.00.

Mr. Binney made a motion to approve payment Certificate #3 in the amount of \$6255.00 to MJF Electric. Mr. Rosso seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes
Mr. Rosso	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Penn's Place PS Upgrade - Mr. Bulicki is recommending final payment to Blooming Glen in the amount of \$2784.84.

Mr. Binney made a motion to approve Payment Certificate #3 in the amount of \$2784.84 to Blooming Glen. Mr. Rosso seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes

Mr. Rosso Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Mr. Goodwin asked if the camera has been removed yet from the line. Mr. Ryba stated that a dig is scheduled with Bucks County Water and Sewer. He said the neighbor has given us permission to dig next to the shed in question. Mr. Rosso wants to know what the plan will be to restore the area we dig up. Mr. Ryba stated that the staff will back fill and WDB will be called out for any landscaping. Mr. Goodwin asked if the contractor will be paying for this. Ms. Nedrick said she has requested the Authority keep track of all expenses associated with this and they will be deducted from Mobile Dredgings bill. Mr. Miles asked if this has caused any issues and Mr. Ryba noted not at this point.

Mr. Binney stated to make sure all job sites are secure with Halloween coming. Mr. Goodwin noted that Bucks County Water and Sewer Authority (BCWSA) is doing a great job with the lining project.

Mr. Rosso asked about the 50' stretch in Fallsington. Mr. Ryba stated that BCWSA should be wrapped up in about two weeks and if the weather is good, they will complete that last stretch.

Mr. Binney had a question for Ms. Nedrick regarding a bill with regards to conversations with Lower Makefield about extending the sewer line for Big Oak Road. Ms. Nedrick stated that the bill was regarding the properties tying into Freeman Farms line. She said she has reached out to the Freeman Farms Developer and received written approval for the connections. Ms. Nedrick said she and Mr. Harman spoke with Lower Makefield to discuss. Mr. Binney stated that if this comes up again, we should press Lower Makefield on the I/I before we do anything. Ms. Nedrick agreed and stated that we proceeded with this due to a failing septic system. Mr. Ryba asked if we will collect the taping fees. Ms. Nedrick stated that taping fees have been collected for both properties

connections.

Executive Director's Report –

2020 Pickup Truck Order – Mr. Hartman informed the Board that that the COSTARS dealer has advised him the build date for the 2020 budgeted truck is November 9, 2020 and he expected it to be outfitted and delivered by year's end. Chairman Rosso recommended that the 2021 budgeted truck be ordered as soon as possible to avoid delays and to obtain it as soon as possible.

COVID – 19 Update – Mr. Hartman advised the Board, and Ms. Parmer and Mr. Ryba confirmed, that none of the administrative staff nor any of the operations staff were currently quarantined due to the pandemic.

2021 Budget – Mr. Hartman thanked the Board members for their reviews and comments on the budget drafts. He noted that the budget version before them for consideration had the most recent changes identified by highlighting. He pointed out that Revenue Account Number 2302, Investment Income, had been reduced by \$42,000 due to the significant drawdown from the Capital Improvements Fund during 2020.

Mr. Rosso made a motion to approve the 2021 Budget. Mr. Miles seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes
Mr. Rosso	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

KVK Water Usage and Metering – Mr. Hartman reported that a recent probe of the KVK water meter for its 38 Cabot Blvd. property continues to show erratic water usage much different and higher than KVK claims to be using. Mr. Hartman added that he has written to KVK requesting a discussion regarding the type and location of the KVK meter in an effort to obtain accurate readings.

Oxford Valley Lift Station Upgrades – Mr. Ryba reported that the bypass system to prevent unintended discharges in the event of a station malfunction has been installed and that the redo of an old repair at the station can be done over the winter.

Requisition 2020-4 Trustee Bank – Mr. Hartman presented to the Board for approval of Requisition 2020-4 in the amount of \$3,428,301 representing the last quarter's budgeted expenses for submission to the trustee bank, U.S. Bank.

Mr. Rosso made a motion to approve Requisition 2020-4 in the amount of \$3,428,301 to U.S. Bank. Mr. Binney seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes
Mr. Rosso	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Review of the Bill List –

Mr. Miles asked what the repair was that Bailey did. Mr. Ryba stated it was for Rock Run pump repairs. He said it was for 2 starters and a start

capacitor.

Mr. Binney asked what we are paying Curtain & Heefner for. Mr. Hartman responded they are our bond counsel.

Mr. Binney also questioned the charges for Harris Computer System. Ms. Parmer stated that they were reviewing that earlier with Mr. Rosso. She added that auto pay service is no longer being used and will be removed. Mr. Hartman noted that a call will be placed to Harris to discuss charges.

Mr. Binney asked about the charges for Penn Power. Mr. Ryba stated we have a partial inspection in the spring and a full inspection in the fall. They then submit a quote for what needs repair. Mr. Ryba stated that the control board was fried at Penns Place and needed to be replaced.

Bills for Payment – Mr. Binney made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$893,860.55. Mr. Rosso seconded the motion.

Poll of the Board:

Mr. Miles	Yes
Mr. Binney	Yes
Mr. Goodwin	Yes
Mr. Rosso	Yes

Motion Carried 4-0

Board Comment

Mr. Miles – Mr. Miles reminded staff to secure work areas with Halloween coming. Mr. Miles stated the weather is getting colder and to be prepared. Mr. Ryba stated that he is watching the temperatures and no houses are currently connected to the temporary line.

Mr. Binney – Mr. Binney thanked everyone for working on the budget.

Mr. Goodwin – Mr. Goodwin asked if the Board was going to get together to discuss the US Steel property further. Mr. Rosso agreed and said to let him know what works for Mr. Goodwin and whomever else would like to meet.

Mr. Rosso – No comment.

Ms. Parmer asked if the Authority would be hosting the Christmas party this year. The Board agreed to cancel it for this year due to the pandemic. Mr. Rosso stated to do something nice for the staff instead.

Adjournment – Mr. Rosso made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. He noted that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The Board was unanimously in favor.

