

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
April 24, 2017

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, April 24, 2017, Chairman Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, and Deana Zosky. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Chuck Volk, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, Tim Carlson and Lisa Miller.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Chairman Nagle announced that today's Board meeting is being videotaped and streaming live and recordings will be posted to the Authority's website.

Liesel Gross noted there will not be an Executive Session unless the Board requires one. Ms. Gross also noted that due to the AWWA Annual Conference in Philadelphia on June 12th which she and other Authority staff are attending, the Board meeting scheduled for that day will need to either be cancelled or rescheduled. Chairman Nagle asked if the Board required an Executive Session to which members replied no.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 10, 2017 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Minutes of the April 10, 2017 meeting (5-0). Linda Rosenfeld abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Annual Non-Union Employee Performance Evaluation & Merit Increases

Liesel Gross reviewed information provided with the Board agenda regarding the Annual Performance Evaluation & Merit Increases for Non-Union employees. The 3% increase pool was included in the 2017 Budget. There are 57 Non-union employees, 50 of which were eligible for an increase. The Board did not request additional information.

Water Filtration Plant – Treatment Process Review – Discussion Only

Liesel Gross introduced Tim Carlson, the Authority's Water Plant Manager. Mr. Carlson presented a PowerPoint presentation to the Board and Staff on the conversion from aluminum sulfate (Alum) to poly aluminum chloride (PACL) at the Water Filtration Plant.

Scott Bieber arrived at 12:08 p.m.

Mr. Carlson explained that PACL has more advantages than Alum such as less chemical usage, effective treatment is less dependent on source water pH, and PACL works more efficiently with colder source water. A coagulant study was conducted from May 2015 to May 2016 using various types of PACL with various raw water conditions and source water blends. In conclusion of the study, the DF-801 PACL was chosen for further testing because of its overall excellent treatment. The only concern was an increase of filter clogging, requiring more frequent backwashing of the filters. The Authority is currently undergoing a study to monitor the corrosion level.

The Board questioned why change to a different coagulant now. Mr. Carlson explained that with the increased production required to supply the Suburban Division, the plant must be running more continuously, including during storms. In high stream flow and high turbidity conditions, the Alum is not effective or efficient enough to meet strict guidelines of the Partnership for Safe Water program, even though

the Authority still meets DEP guidelines in these conditions. Ms. Gross noted that this chemical treatment changeover is permitted by DEP.

Liesel Gross informed the Board that Tim Carlson heads the Water Loss Team for the Authority and is working to bring our water loss numbers down. Water loss in the City system is at 19% for 2017. Chairman Nagle explained that when the Authority was evaluating the concession agreement, water loss was around 25%. The Authority continues to make efforts to reduce water loss.

City Signatory Billing Meter Evaluation

Pat Mandes gave an overview of the description of work for the Professional Services Authorization approval request which authorizes the development of metering standards for the City signatory wastewater billing meters. An evaluation completed in 2015 and 2016 determined that two-thirds of the billing meters are not reading accurately. Ms. Mandes is asking for approval of the Professional Services Authorization in the amount of \$94,000.00 for Arcadis to assemble a "blue ribbon panel" to develop a set of metering standards, assess all signatory metering sites against the new standards and make recommendations for improvements. The municipal signatories will be required to follow-up on the recommendations and make the necessary improvements.

Deana Zosky inquired about the accuracy of the modeling work that has been completed if the sewer meters are not reading accurately. She also expressed concern about the potential overlapping scope of work included in several recent approval requests related to metering and modeling. She said it is not clear how all the work is related to each other in a comprehensive program since the approval requests are being presented separately. Pat Mandes explained that the various approvals don't overlap because billing meters, flow meters for modeling work, and metering for rehab effectiveness are all separate efforts that look at sewer flows in different ways for different purposes. In addition, as part of the preparation of a capital improvements plan to address the USEPA Administrative Order, all signatories are working together to negotiate a Memorandum of Understanding about how costs will be shared, which will include using the metering and modeling data to allocate costs. While it would be ideal for the work to be presented in a comprehensive manner for approval at one time, it is important to note that the municipal signatories are part of the decision-making process and the projects are being brought forward as the signatories are meeting and agreeing on each step.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Professional Services Authorization for Arcadis in the amount of \$94,000.00 (7-0).

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ed Klein gave an overview of the March 2017 Financial Report. Chuck Volk stated that Capital Projects will start coming to the Board for approval starting in late May or early June. Waiting for grant approval on two large water projects has held up a couple of projects.

MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

John Parsons reviewed the March 2017 Operations Report that was attached to the Board agenda. Mr. Parsons noted that Schantz Spring will be used as a major watershed indicator in the coming months. Schantz Spring peaked at over 8 mgd (million gallons per day) this month which is an excellent indicator that the local water supplies are looking better.

Norma Cusick asked about the customer service inquiries. Liesel Gross said about 85% are billing questions and the rest are miscellaneous inquiries.

Mr. Parsons noted that the #5 tank at the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment plant is now back on-line. The two SSOs noted on the operating report were during dry weather. One was in Upper Milford Township regarding a clean-out pipe that ruptured and leaked and the other one was caused by root and grease build-

up. Mr. Parsons also noted that we are still in a Drought Watch but hopeful that it will be lifted soon as there are signs of improvement.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross informed the Board that at a May Board meeting, Kevin German will present the 2016 Risk Management report.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

Not present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:08 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary