

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
November 24, 2014

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:25 p.m., on Monday, November 24, 2014, Chairman Asa Hughes presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Tom Muller, Richard Bohner, Emrich Stellar, Norma Cusick and Scott Bieber. Authority Staff present were Aurel Arndt, Liesel Adam, Bradford Landon, Ed Bielarski, Frank Leist, Dan Standish, Robert Kerchusky, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, and Lisa Miller.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Mr. Arndt stated that the Wynnewood Terrace Pump Station and Force Main Replacement item under Wastewater is withdrawn for this meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Arndt stated there would be an Executive Session immediately following the regular agenda items to discuss a personnel matter.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

September 30, 2014 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the September 30, 2014 Regular Meeting (6-0).

October 13, 2014 Workshop Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the October 13, 2014 Workshop Meeting (6-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

2015 WLI Report on Wastewater User Charges

Pat Mandes and Ed Bielarski presented the Proposed 2015 Wastewater User Charges. The LCA WLI Wastewater Rate Annual Comparison Table was reviewed. The effect on rates for an average residential user is a 14.0% decrease. The decrease in WLI rates is primarily due to a reduction in the charges from the City of Allentown Division despite increased in projected efforts to deal with Inflow/Infiltration, debt on the flow equalization basin (FEB) and a WLI Condition Assessment Project. Reserves in the amount of \$500,000 have been included in the rates to offset future increased debt service costs or fund capital projects. In addition, the WLI Test and Seal project in the amount of \$1.3 million dollars is included in the operating budget. Pat Mandes is asking the Board for Preliminary Approval with Final Approval as part of the adoption of the 2015 Budget in December.

On a motion made by Scott Bieber, seconded by Tom Muller, the Board unanimously approved the Preliminary rates, however, the Authority is asking the Staff to explore whether the Capital Expenditure should be included in the final rates (6-0).

2015-2014 Capital Plan Approval

Frank Leist requested Approval of the 2015-2024 Suburban and City of Allentown Capital Plans. He stated that the Authority received review letters from the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission and the City of Allentown. There were no adverse comments received from the LVPC however, there were numerous comments from the City of Allentown. Frank Leist and Ed Bielarski met with the City to discuss the comments and concerns. The City wanted to be assured that their approval of the Capital Plan was not an approval of Major Capital Improvements. Frank Leist said that he will draft a response letter to the City, but Ed and he feel that the meeting has resolved the matter.

No changes in the Suburban Plan are proposed, but there are a few changes on the City Plan, including:

Project AD-S-15 Sanitary Sewer Manhole Collars & Water Tight Covers - the City will be funding more manholes;
Project AD-S-19 Riparian Manhole Inspections – deleted from the plan;
Project AD-S-4 Sanitary Sewer Main Replacements and/or Rehabilitation – disputed by the City;
Project AD-W-16 Pre-Lease Valve Replacements – done in 1 year as opposed to 3 years.

On a motion made by Tom Muller, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board unanimously approved the 2015-2024 Suburban Division and City of Allentown Capital Plans (6-0).

Allentown Division – WWTP – Replacement of Motor Control Centers

John Parsons gave an overview of the project. He is asking for approval of the Construction Phase of the project. The General Construction Contract was re-bid because no bids were received from the first bid advertisement. He is looking for approval of the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase for \$2,254,137 which includes the Electrical Contract to Diefenderfer for \$1,833,000, the General Contract to Blooming Glen for \$142,700, and the Professional Services Authorization to CDM Smith Inc. for \$37,410. Some discussion followed.

On a motion made by Tom Muller, seconded by Emrich Stellar, the Board unanimously approved the Professional Services Authorization Amendment No. 2 in the amount of \$37,410.00 (6-0).

On a motion made by Scott Bieber, seconded by Richard Bohner, the Board unanimously approved the Capital Project Authorization, including the Electrical Contract and the General Contract, in the amount of \$2,254,137.00 (6-0).

2015 SCARP Program Management

Pat Mandes requested the Board for Approval of a Capital Project Authorization and Professional Services Authorization Amendment 20 in the amount of \$50,000 for Arcadis to provide I & I Program Management through 2015.

On a motion made by Scott Bieber, seconded by Emrich Stellar, the Board unanimously approved the Capital Project Authorization Amendment 20 and the Professional Services Authorization Amendment 20 in the amount of \$50,000.00 (6-0).

SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Bob Kerchusky provided an overview of current Wastewater activity. The Belt Press refurbishing project is underway and working well.

Dan Standish provided an overview of current Water activity. There were a couple of Main breaks in the City which is common this time of year.

Pat Mandes updated the Board on the issue of Molybdenum contamination of biosolids at the Pretreatment Plant and Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. She reported that the Authority has resumed land application of biosolids from the plants, as the Molybdenum has decreased to acceptable levels. While the Molybdenum levels were above the permit thresholds, the Authority had been land-filling the material, with an estimated increased cost of \$400,000. LCA has consulted with an attorney and received a preliminary report regarding liability and methods to recapture this cost from the responsible party(ies). Some discussion followed.

Aurel Arndt read an email received from Board member Norma Cusick asking for further discussion on municipalities' reporting requirements and information sharing regarding the USEPA Administrative Order. She referenced the need for the public to be informed and having municipalities report their progress would be helpful in improving public communications. Bob Kerchusky stated that the municipalities report their wastewater flows to LCA but have no contractual obligation to provide the progress reports to LCA or on the

Authority's website. Pat Mandes explained that LCA sends the reports on behalf of WLI signatory municipalities to regulatory agencies, and these reports are available on the Authority's website. Some discussion followed.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

OTHER COMMENTS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Chairman called for an executive session at 2:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter at which time the staff, except for Mr. Arndt, left the meeting.

The session ended at 2:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary