

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

### **April 22, 2024**

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, April 22, 2024, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. The meeting was hybrid via in-person and video and audio advanced communication technology (“ACT”), using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. Each Board member and other attendees of the meeting were able to hear each other attendee and be heard by each other attendee. The public could also participate in the meeting in-person or via ACT, using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Brian Nagle, Amir Famili, Ted Lyons, Jeff Morgan, Norma Cusick, and Sean Ziller were present for Roll Call, and remained for the duration of the meeting. Marc Grammes joined the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Attorney Kevin Reid, the Authority’s Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Andrew Moore, AJ Capuzzi, Phil DePoe, Chuck Volk, Susan Sampson, and Lisa Miller.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance. He then asked if anyone did not receive their copy of the packet. A copy of the packet is also available online.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Liesel Gross announced that there are no changes to the agenda; however, she noted the agenda was updated to include the financial report that was distributed after the packet was mailed. Also, an Executive Session is planned after the close of the regular session to discuss a personnel matter.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **March 25, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Jeff Morgan noted a grammatical error. On a motion by Jeff Morgan, seconded by Amir Famili, the Board approved the minutes from the March 25, 2024 meeting as corrected (6-0).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **Resolution No. 4-2024-1: Authorizing the Authority’s Application for Pennvest Funding**

Liesel Gross explained the resolution regarding the submission of the Pennvest application for the next round of funding for the replacement of public and private lead service lines. She noted that grant funding may not be available to fully cover the project cost, but the Authority should expect to receive a mix of grant and loan funding for this project.

On a motion by Amir Famili, seconded by Ted Lyons, the Board approved Resolution No. 4-2024-1 (7-0).

A roll call vote was taken, with the following votes cast:

Brian Nagle – yes  
Amir Famili – yes  
Ted Lyons – yes  
Jeff Morgan – yes  
Norma Cusick – yes  
Sean Ziller – yes

Marc Grammes – yes

**Allentown Division – Water Main Replacement Program Cycles 7 & 8**

Jason Peters provided an overview and background of the project to replace approximately 2 miles of water main in the City of Allentown. The project is coordinated with the City's Compliance Office, Streets Program, PennDOT, and private utilities. Funding for this project is from the Authority's Allentown Division and City grant funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The contractor N. Abbonizio Contractors is recommended for approval, and has worked with the Authority's design consultant to perform several water main replacements for other utilities with satisfactory results.

The Board asked if there has been a difference in the quality of work between the different contractors that have performed the work during the different water main replacement cycles. Mr. Peters said there have been some differences in contractors, but the quality of work has been the same. There have also been some cost increases, but it mainly depends on the project and what is found underground and the location of the project. Higher labor costs are also a factor in the cost increases.

Sean Ziller asked about the availability of additional ARPA funding from the City. Liesel Gross said the funds from the City have been designated primarily for the water main replacements and the Water Filtration Plant projects. Jennifer McKenna, City of Allentown Office of Compliance, commented that the City Council has allocated \$15 million of the ARPA funds to these projects as well as sewer collection system upgrades. The City and the Authority met to review the projects to determine what was working and decided to look at mobilization costs and work in a different sector each year to streamline projects.

Chairman Nagle asked if the paving project will include the ADA curbing and ramp installations. Mr. Peters explained that the ADA requirements are included as they are part of the City ordinance for paving projects.

On a motion by Sean Ziller, seconded by Marc Grammes, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase – Allentown Division Cycle 7 & 8 Water Main Replacement in the amount of \$5,053,203.00 which includes the Professional Service Authorizations for the Construction Engineering and Administration Services to Gannett Fleming Inc. in the amount of \$89,280.00 and Construction Inspection Services to Keystone Consulting Engineers in the amount of \$89,300.00, General Construction Contract to N. Abbonizio Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$3,912,403.00 and the Final Paving Restoration Contract Cost Sharing Agreement, City of Allentown, in the amount of \$737,220.00. The authorization also includes authorization for Staff or the CEO to execute the cost-sharing agreement for street restoration and repaving (7-0).

**Kline's Island WWTP – Final Settling Tanks 1-4 Upgrades**

Amy Rohrbach provided background and a review of the project to upgrade components of the four settling tanks that have reached the end of their useful life. The project includes structural upgrades, electrical upgrades, and mechanical upgrades, as described in the proposal from GHD. The project will also include conduit with fiber line to extend to other parts of the plant for future SCADA enhancements. The City of Allentown has approved the conceptual design, and the project is considered a Major Capital Improvement project allowing for costs to be recovered in the Capital Cost Recover Charges (CCRC).

On a motion by Jeff Morgan, seconded by Ted Lyons, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Design & Bidding phase in the amount of \$166,400.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to GHD in the amount of \$146,400.00 (7-0).

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Ed Klein gave an overview of the March 2024 financial statements, highlighting variances between actual expenses and budgeted or forecasted expenses. Mr. Klein reported that all three funds were favorable for March with both net income and cash flows performing better than forecast.

### **MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

Andrew Moore reviewed the March 2024 report and reported that there were no injury or vehicle incidents. March was a wet month with 5.14 inches of rain. Water production from the Lehigh River source was a little higher last month mainly due to the turbidity events in the Little Lehigh Creek. Wastewater flows remain elevated due to rain events this month.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Liesel Gross announced that she will be providing an annual update to the Lehigh County Board of Commissioners on Wednesday, April 24th. The update will be focused on wastewater planning for the region and the meeting is virtual for anyone who would like to view the meeting.

### **SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

Jeff Morgan asked when the force main construction will be completed in Grange Park. Chuck Volk stated the force main project should be completed in the park by early fall.

Sean Ziller thanked the Staff for sharing the media updates with the Board and happy to see the outreach that the Authority is doing.

Chairman Nagle announced that a Stakeholder Advisory Panel is being assembled to look at the upgrade options related to the Authority's Pretreatment Plant. Amir Famili and Ted Lyons have been assigned as Authority Board representatives, with Kevin Baker as an alternative. He said that community involvement with this project is important, and the Board looks forward to the results from this effort.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There will be an Executive Session after the regular meeting to discuss personnel matters.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

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Jeffrey J. Morgan  
Secretary