

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, March 12, 2018, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick and Ted Lyons. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Brad Landon, Ed Klein, Chuck Volk, Chris Moughan, Susan Sampson, John Parsons 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.

Scott Bieber arrived at 12:02 p.m.

Liesel Gross noted there will be an Executive Session at the end of the regular agenda to discuss potential litigation and also an item under Staff comments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 26, 2018 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Minutes of the February 26, 2018 meeting (6-0).

Chairman Nagle asked for updates on the follow-up items the Board had requested during the previous meeting. Liesel Gross stated that the bid amounts reported in the minutes of February 12, 2018 for the Park Pump Station and the Chestnut Street Bridge projects were verified and corrected. John Parsons reported that the accident on the January Systems Overview report was a technician with a laceration who required medical treatment and returned to work the same day. The other update was the question from Scott Bieber regarding daily water loss recovered from the Schantz Spring Main Replacement project. Chuck Volk commented and the prior leak study shows the Authority saved 100,000 gallons per day of water loss through this project.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Suburban Division – Asset Management presentation

Chuck Volk presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Suburban Division Facilities 2017 Asset Management Upgrade project that was completed last month. The project consisted of investigating thirty-two Suburban Division water and wastewater facilities that were assessed to identify structural, electrical, and HVAC conditions, risk of failure and consequence of failure. The facilities were assigned risk ratings according to generally accepted asset management principles.

Kevin Baker arrived at 12:09 p.m.

Mr. Volk's presentation included "before and after" photos of the facilities that were addressed in this project, and reviewed the updated asset management ratings after project completion. He also highlighted future projects that are being undertaken to further improve risk ratings for the remaining facilities.

Norma Cusick questioned how the facilities could deteriorate to a point and no one took responsibility for them. Chuck Volk said for some of the facilities, the original developer built facilities were not built according to the standard that the Authority would require, and the Authority acquired those systems later. For all the facilities in the project, the Authority had maintained focus on ensuring they operated well, but funding was not previously allocated to upgrade and maintain them.

Mr. Volk explained the next phase of the project will be the Suburban Division mechanical asset management upgrade project which will consist of replacing pumps and control valves. Ted Lyons asked what was necessary to abandon a well. Mr. Volk said that the Authority must follow Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) protocol that is in place. Some discussion regarding well abandonment followed.

Brian Nagle commented that it's fabulous that the Authority is doing these asset management programs and prioritizing the work and getting the projects done. Liesel Gross followed up on this comment stating that at the last meeting the Board reviewed the three-year action plan related to infrastructure stability, and now seeing the before-and-after results for this project which is part of that action plan, the team members who are making this work happen should be commended.

Suburban Division – Heidelberg Heights Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation

Chuck Volk reviewed the project that consists of replacing approximately 1,070 feet of 8-inch sewer main and 54 sewer laterals in Heidelberg Heights sanitary sewage collection system. A recent closed circuit video inspection (CCTV) revealed numerous pipe breaks, root intrusions, settlement deflections and other defects that have resulted in excessive infiltration of groundwater and rainwater during storm events, which have caused hydraulic overloads at the wastewater treatment plant over recent years. Mr. Volk explained that pipe replacement is the best option for this project because a structural solution is needed and pipe lining has been a problem at Heidelberg Heights due to partial collapse and separation of the linings. Mr. Volk also explained that the paving costs will be shared with the upcoming water line replacement project scheduled to be completed in the same locations later this year. Residents will be notified of the projects.

Norma Cusick questioned the bid cost disparity between SJM Construction and the highest bidder RGC Development. Chuck Volk explained that RGC's costs for bond insurance and project mobilization were much higher than SJM's and also this company is geared towards working with developers and so this type of project may not be their core expertise.

Scott Bieber questioned the funding of this project. Liesel Gross explained that this system is on a common rate and coming out of the Suburban wastewater fund.

Chairman Nagle asked what percent of the 54 laterals are being replaced. Chuck Volk stated about half of the laterals are being replaced at Heidelberg Heights.

Mr. Volk is asking for Board approval of the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$326,500.00 which includes the Construction Contract to SJM Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$296,500.00.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$326,500.00 which includes the Construction Contract to SJM Construction Co., Inc. in the amount of \$296,500.00 (8-0).

Allentown Division – Kline’s Island WWTP Master Plan

John Parsons gave an overview of the project to provide for an engineering study to produce a Master Plan for the Allentown Wastewater Plant at Kline’s Island. The Plan is a requirement of the lease and must be updated every five years throughout the lifetime of the lease. Some of the issues that will be addressed include a full scale condition assessment of all facilities, a detailed structural analysis on the plastic media trickling filters and rock media trickling filters, process audits and optimization, short-term and long-term capital plans, and safety, security and building code audits. Mr. Parsons explained the reason for Kleinfelder’s low cost is because they have the background information and notes on this project from previously working on a similar project in the past for this facility.

Mr. Parsons is asking for approval of the Capital Project Authorization in the amount of \$199,952.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization awarded to Kleinfelder Inc. in the amount of \$159,952.00.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization in the amount of \$199,952.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization awarded to Kleinfelder Inc. in the amount of \$159,952.00 (8-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their packets of meeting information prior to the meeting.

Liesel Gross reviewed the potential action and discussion items for the March 26, 2018 Board meeting that were listed in the monthly project report. She also announced that annual performance evaluation process for non-union employees will begin shortly with a report to the Board in April.

Linda Rosenfeld questioned the information item under Water, Allentown Division – Hamilton Street Cedar Creek Bridge Water Main Relocation project and asked why the contractor was pulled off the job. Chuck Volk explained that this site is used for stocking trout so it’s an environmental issue, not a contractor issue.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross made the Board aware that Lehigh County Authority is on the agenda for both the Governance Committee and regular meeting agenda with the County Commissioners on Wednesday, March 14th regarding the Authority’s request for a charter extension. A joint letter from Ms. Gross and County Executive Phil Armstrong was sent to the Commissioners with the Authority’s resolution attached.

SOLICITOR’S COMMENTS

Brad Landon brought to the Board’s attention, that during the election of officers, the Board failed to elect an assistant treasurer. The Board stated that they will not elect an assistant treasurer.

Chuck Volk introduced his son Nicholas, who attends Penn State, has a classroom assignment which requires him to attend a meeting of a water/wastewater utility so he is here today to observe our meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

Jennifer McKenna, City of Allentown Compliance Office, asked for verification regarding the Water Filtration Plant Roof Replacement project as listed on the March report of the Monthly Project Updates/Information Items. She was under the impression that this project was deleted from the 2018-2022 Capital Plan. Liesel Gross stated that certain projects had been scaled back or the timeframe was shifted due to budget constraints, but couldn't comment directly on this particular project. Chuck Volk said he will clarify this and let Ms. McKenna know.

Chairman Nagle called a recess at 12:41 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 12:46 p.m. to discuss potential litigation. The Executive Session ended at 1:21 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:21 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary