

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 12, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, August 12, 2019, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, and Amir Famili. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Brad Landon, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, Susan Sampson, Todd Marion, Phil DePoe and Lisa Miller.

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

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross stated there are no changes to the agenda and there will be an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation.

Scott Bieber arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their packet in the mail prior to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 22, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Richard Bohner requested that *Board of Directors* be added after *Lehigh County Authority* in the initial paragraph of the Minutes. On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the minutes of the July 22, 2019 meeting as corrected (7-0).

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Budget Amendment Request – Allentown Division: Water Main Cycle 4

Ed Klein explained the budget amendment request is due to an overrun in the capital budget of \$524,885.00 due to the timing of the project. The project was budgeted for start and completion in 2018 but needed to be rebid due to the reduction in the scope which caused a two-month delay to the start of the project.

On a motion by Jeff Morgan, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Budget Amendment request for the Allentown Division Water Main Cycle 4 in the amount of \$524,885.00 (7-0).

Allentown Division – Water Filtration Plant: High Lift Pump VFD Replacements

Phil DePoe gave an overview of the project which consists of the replacement of the existing two Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) and adding a third VFD. The additional VFD will increase the life of the pumps. Mr. DePoe explained that it was decided to award the bid for engineering design services to Borton-Lawson because of their value-added engineering services.

The City of Allentown has reviewed and approved the project as a Major Capital Improvement allowing the cost to be recovered via a capital cost recovery charge in the LCA Allentown Division. The project is currently listed as “unfunded” in LCA’s Capital Plan but may be supported through a PennVEST loan. Design and permitting work is required before a decision can be made about funding the project. Mr. DePoe is requesting approval of the Capital Project Authorization – Design Phase in the amount of \$88,500.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to be awarded to Borton-Lawson in the amount of \$68,500.00.

Amir Famili noted in the memo that Board approval is being requested for the design phase to ensure loan application time lines can be met in the event agreement can be reached with the City and asked if this agreement has indeed been reached. Liesel Gross explained the current status of the project is that both LCA and the City agree it’s a Major Capital Improvement and agree fundamentally it should be funded through the PennVEST program. However, discussions are ongoing with the City regarding financing of these types of projects and how that will work in the overall effort to achieve financial sustainability in the Allentown water / sewer lease.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization – Design Phase in the amount of \$88,500.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to be awarded to Borton-Lawson in the amount of \$68,500.00 (7-0).

Northampton Borough Municipal Authority (NBMA) – Water Service Agreement Amendment

Brad Landon explained that with the abandonment of Well NL6 because of high manganese levels it is necessary to increase the amount of water purchased from the NBMA interconnection in the North Whitehall Division. The amendment would allow for water usage from the NBMA system up to 1,000,000 gallons per day instead of the contract limit of 260,000 gallons per day. The consecutive system permit with DEP will need to be amended. There was some discussion on contracts and agreements. If contracts or agreement changes are complex, Chairman Nagle would like to see negotiations for an entirely new, consolidated contract versus revisions and amendments to the prior agreements which can be difficult to interpret. Mr. Landon agreed that is generally desirable, but a more simple amendment in this case was preferred since there is only one term of the agreement proposed to be changed.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Jeff Morgan to approve the Amendment to the July 15, 1997 Water Service Agreement with Northampton Borough Municipal Authority (7-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Liesel Gross highlighted items for the meeting on August 26, 2019 noting that the resolution for the Suburban Division Water Tapping Fees may or may not be on the agenda. John Parsons gave an overview of the Suburban Division – Watershed Monitoring Program. He noted that the Little Lehigh Watershed was picked as a targeted area by the National Next Generation Integrated Water Observing System (NGWOS) allowing for additional surface water and ground water monitoring stations to be developed by the USGS (United States Geological Survey) at its cost. There was some discussion on the Authority’s drought monitoring program.

Brian Nagle asked for an updated on the Heidelberg Heights Sewer System Corrective Action Plan. Chuck Volk stated that the Plan was submitted to DEP and the Authority is already implementing the provisions of the plan as part of the annual sewer line replacement project. Liesel Gross also noted that the Lynn Township Corrective Action Plan will be submitted to DEP in August. DEP is requiring an update to the condition assessment of the sanitary sewer system which will be submitted at the

end of August and will outline what needs to be done to address ongoing wet-weather operational issues in this system.

Scott Bieber asked for clarification on the WLI High Flow Emergency Declaration and the long-term bypass or relief lines that are being put in place. John Parsons explained the bypass line in the area along Spring Creek Road would only be in place for several weeks while investigation and rehabilitation work is being completed.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross informed the Board that the Authority Staff is kicking off Budget preparation tasks. Preliminary discussions with the Board will take place at a meeting in September.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

Chairman Nagle called a recess at 12:34 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:46 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 12:46 p.m. to discuss matters of potential litigation.

The Executive Session ended at 1:28 p.m.

The regular meeting was convened at 1:28 p.m. for additional discussion.

The Board discussed the recent boil water advisories happening at the Pine Lakes water system in Lynn Township. John Parsons reported that the most recent incident occurred due to a level sensor in a water tank that was not working properly, which caused pump controls to not operate as planned and creating a loss of pressure in the system. The boil water advisories are put in place as a precaution when the water system loses pressure because disinfection processes can be disrupted when such incidents occur. Several other similar incidents have occurred over the past year within the Pine Lakes system and the Authority is working on a permanent fix to address problems with the pumping control system. Liesel Gross explained that during each of the prior incidents there has been no indication of a water quality problem, and all laboratory tests confirm no signs of bacteria in the tap water following these incidents.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:33 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary