

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

August 26, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:06 p.m. on Monday, August 26, 2019, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Kevin Baker, Jeff Morgan, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, Scott Bieber, Ted Lyons and Amir Famili. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Brad Landon, Chuck Volk, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, Susan Sampson, Todd Marion, Phil DePoe, Amy Kunkel 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. Mr. Nagle also announced that the Board received their packet in the mail prior to the meeting and that a new agenda has been distributed which includes an additional item under Wastewater entitled *Allentown Division – Wastewater Treatment Plant Max Month Capacity Evaluation*.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross stated there are no changes to the agenda other than noted above by Chairman Nagle and there will be an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 12, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Richard Bohner noted a minor spelling error. On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the minutes of the August 12, 2019 meeting as corrected (8-0). Ted Lyons abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Suburban Division – Buss Acres Pump Station Replacement Construction

Amy Kunkel presented the project and gave an overview of the construction phase of the Buss Acres Pump Station replacement. The proposed project consists of the consolidation of both well stations with a single new pump station on Gary Drive and a larger new water storage tank. The new station will be a variable frequency drive controlled double pumping system with full SCADA telemetry/control. Prior studies have indicated radon is present in the source water in this system but no treatment is currently in place because it's not regulated by state or federal regulations. The new design consists of a larger tank allowing some "gas-off" of radon present. The design will also have provisions to add a recirculation pump which would pump water through the nozzles and reservoir more than once to further remove the radon should DEP impose a regulatory limit for radon. Chuck Volk added that a pilot study was done on the site and the new nozzles are capable of eliminating 70% of radon in the water supply. Amir Famili asked if it would be more cost effective to put in place a radon mitigation system now versus later to eliminate the radon. Ms. Kunkel and Mr. Volk explained that a pre-design study was done and the costs for additional mitigation equipment is costly. In addition, since there is no regulatory limit for radon currently in place, the exact design

specifications for future treatment requirements cannot be designed now. However the 70% radon reduction discussed via the use of the nozzles and new water storage tank will be achieved by this project, so a significant water quality improvement will be in place as a result of this project.

Mr. Volk noted that only one general contractor put in a bid. He did some inquiry and was told by other contractors who were at the pre-bid meeting but didn't bid that there is a lot of work going on and contractors are very busy. He also noted the costs are within the engineer's estimate for the work. Scott Bieber asked if the township zoning hearing board decision from the township had been appealed. Mr. Volk said that he is unaware of any appeals and that revisions had been made to the plan to try to address concerns of the residents.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Ted Lyons, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization – Construction Phase in the amount of \$2,267,778.00, which includes the General Construction Contract awarded to Blooming Glen Contractors WW in the amount of \$1,641,848.00, the Electrical Construction Contract awarded to BSI in the amount of \$395,000.00, the Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Engineering to Buchart Horn, Inc. in the amount of \$53,350.00, the Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Inspection awarded to Cowan Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$27,580.00 (9-0).

Suburban Division – CLD Auxiliary Pumping Station and Water Main Extension Project – Construction Change Order

Chuck Volk gave an overview of the project that consists of the installation of a new water booster pumping station and 12" water main extension, with emergency generator and SCADA system, to pump water from the Central Lehigh Division's lower pressure system into the upper pressure system. The change order is being requested by the General Contractor, Blooming Glen Contractors WW, because the owner of the property, Kay Builders, raised the grading 2 feet which now impacts the pump station design. Mr. Volk recommends approval of the change order because the owner has given the Authority the easement and is also providing 714 cubic yards of the 914 cubic yards of fill required, both at no cost, which represents an adequate cost-sharing approach for this design change.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization – Construction Phase, Amendment No. 3 to Blooming Glen Contractors WW in the amount of \$46,078.20 (9-0).

Suburban Division – Sand Spring WWTP Upgrade Project Construction

Chuck Volk distributed an updated memo due to changes to clarifying when the current effluent discharge limits and the stricter limits required by the NPDES permit were established.

Mr. Volk gave an overview of the project which has many DEP requirements such as a redundant UV disinfection system, a tertiary filter and the building needs to be large enough to accommodate a second tertiary filter for the future. Another factor driving up cost is the high groundwater level at the Sand Spring site. Contractors will need pumps running 24/7 to keep groundwater levels down during construction. The contracts are in line with the engineer's estimate.

Mr. Volk is recommending approval of the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$4,389,300.00 which includes the award of the Construction Contract – General to Lobar, Inc. in the amount of \$3,233,800.00, the Electrical Construction Contract to Brenden Stanton, Inc. (BSI) in the amount of \$524,500.00, the HVAC/Plumbing Construction Contract to W. C.

Eshenaur & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$104,400.00 and the Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Engineering to Entech Engineering in the amount of \$251,000.00.

Ted Lyons questioned the Electrical contract cost noting that it's much lower than the others. Mr. Volk said the bid was reviewed and is in order. Jeff Morgan questioned if there was another option to pump elsewhere for treatment rather than build a new plant. Mr. Volk noted that the township would have to update its Act 537 sewage facilities plan and has no current plan to pursue a more regional approach to sewage treatment for the township.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for the Construction Phase in the amount of \$4,389,300.00 which includes the award of the Construction Contract – General to Lobar, Inc. in the amount of \$3,233,800.00, the Electrical Construction Contract to Brenden Stanton, Inc. (BSI) in the amount of \$524,500.00, the HVAC/Plumbing Construction Contract to W. C. Eshenaur & Son, Inc. in the amount of \$104,400.00 and the Professional Services Authorization – Construction Phase Engineering to Entech Engineering in the amount of \$251,000.00 (9-0).

Liesel Gross noted that Chuck Volk has been very busy with projects and thanked him for all his work.

Western Lehigh Service Area – Sewer Capacity Exploration

Liesel Gross presented a PowerPoint for discussion regarding the Western Lehigh County sewer system capacity highlighting the history and challenges of the system. The two main challenges have been the numerous times the regulatory landscape has changed over the past 10 years and the prolonged wet weather over the past two years. The City of Allentown wastewater treatment plant has been meeting all the permit requirements despite the very high flows and the LCA pretreatment plant has been performing far above the design capacity. Scott Bieber stated that the high flows in the Western Lehigh Interceptor make it difficult to assess the results of work to remove excess inflow and infiltration. Ms. Gross agreed and stated that flow meters are in place and since August has been a dryer period, it is hopeful that we receive good data. The flow meter modeling from Arcadis should be complete in the first quarter of 2020. The conveyance capacity evaluations will help determine how flows have changed and what is needed to include for future growth. Ms. Gross also highlighted stakeholder outreach that is required to ensure the community is engaged in solutions to address economic growth and impacts of climate change.

Allentown Division – Wastewater Treatment Plant Max Month Capacity Evaluation

Phil DePoe gave an overview of the project in which the Authority will retain the services of Kleinfelder to conduct an engineering study to supplement the prior master plan work that was completed in 2018. Liesel Gross added that this study will be very beneficial to evaluate the City of Allentown wastewater treatment plant's capability to accept current and future flows. Mr. DePoe is asking for approval of the Professional Services Authorization to Kleinfelder in the amount of \$50,000.00 which the City has agreed to fund directly, but which costs are then shared by all signatories to the Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Professional Services Authorization to Kleinfelder in the amount of \$50,000.00 (9-0).

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ed Klein presented the July 2019 financial report with a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting variances between budgeted revenues and expenses and actual or forecasted revenues and expenses.

MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

John Parsons reviewed the Monthly System Operations Overview report for July 2019 and noted that for the past nine months, both Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Pretreatment Plant have treated flows above their design capacity. The report also included a status report of the Western Lehigh Interceptor High Flow Emergency Project as of August 19, 2019. Mr. Parsons stated that the project has produced good results and the team has found many defects and removed a lot of debris. Liesel Gross added that the Authority will review how to document the results from the Western Lehigh Interceptor High Flow Emergency project for further discussion with DEP.

STAFF COMMENTS

Liesel Gross informed the Board that the evaluation of proposals for the Solicitor position has begun and interviews for a mix of in-house and independent contractors will follow. Ms. Gross will keep the Board informed and will bring the top two recommended candidates before the Board prior to a final decision sometime in September or October.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

Chairman Nagle called a recess at 1:45 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 1:57 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 1:57 p.m. to discuss matters of potential litigation.

The Executive Session ended at 2:36 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:36 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary