

REGULAR MEETING

January 7, 2025

6:00 o'clock P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at 6:00 o'clock, pm at the Municipal Authority Administrative Building, 462 South Fourth Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

Norman Koch, Chairman
Thomas McBryan, Vice Chairman
Tre Bittner, Secretary / Treasurer
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Cory Fasold, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Department Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Jennifer Kremer, Recording Secretary
Patrick Burke, Engineer
Jamison Dippel, Rate payer at 141 N Sixth Street, Sunbury

Mr. Koch called the meeting to order, and Mr. Welfer led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Koch called on Jamison Dippel to discuss his property at 141 N Sixth Street Sunbury, PA. Mr. Dippel stated that they are willing to try the solutions suggested to them, such as a plug and a backflow preventer. Chris Stauffer from SJ Eaton inspected the property and also suggested a backflow preventer. However, they are concerned that the pressure would then push the water up into the upper levels of their house. Tom McBryan said that would not occur. They may also install a temporary cap in the basement drain if they desire. Cory stated there would be further discussion on this matter later in the meeting.

Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from November 26, 2024, and also December 3, 2024. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch called on Jason for the Financial Report. Jason said there are no financials to discuss, as we are now in the beginning of the audit process.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting. The Aeration Basin project is now complete. SCADA system is up and running. Jason asked for the last pay application in

the amount of \$25,530 to be approved. Jason also suggested he could ask Martz to come in and present to the Board their intended work going forward for the SCADA system improvements. There are some concerns regarding security. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tom Krieger it was approved to release the check for Pay Application #5 in the amount of \$25,530 to JP Environmental for completion of the project.

Matt then discussed the issue with the sewer lines near Guigi's on Packer Street. Matt met with the owner, Carlo Ferraro, on December 19, 2024 and showed him pictures taken of the lines. Carol stated the restaurant's fryers and cooking grease are currently emptied into 55-gallon drums, and only leftover grease from dishes goes down the drains. Discussion ensued. It was mentioned that the Code office has no authority over grease traps. Cory suggested giving the owner a timeline with a deadline to get a plan of action in place, with Todd Kerstetter suggesting getting the plans from the owner and having Pat Burke review before proceeding. It was also suggested that all the restaurants in town be inspected based on how they dispose of their grease. Attorney Kerstetter said SMA has the authority to go into the City's restaurants and request to look at their systems of grease removal.

Matt also spoke about the Authority's rules and regulations needing updated. Matt and Attorney Kerstetter and Jason are to work on this together.

Matt next continued the discussion on customer issues at 141 N Sixth Street. Discussion was held regarding the backflow preventer installation, as well as the sewer line capacity and future plans for a configuration change to the lines in the area. The Board informed Mr. Dippel that they are working on a permanent solution, but in the meantime the Municipal Authority will install a backflow preventer to see if it keeps the situation from happening again, with the understanding that the Dippels would sign a release for maintenance of the device, and grant SMA access install, as well as release SMA of any future liability. On motion of Tom Krieger, SMA will install a proper backflow preventer and a cap in the basement with pictures and documentation upon receiving a signed release on maintenance from the customer. The motion was seconded by Cory Fasold. Motion carried with Tom McBryan casting a dissenting vote. Jamison Dippel exited the meeting at 6:45 pm.

Matt then reported a sinkhole developed at the corner of Fifth and Packer Streets on December 31st. The hole was plated until 01/02/2025. It was discovered to be caused by a water main break. This has been fixed.

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING REPORT

Pat reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting.

Pat reported that this December tonnage was down 140.82 tons from December 2023. Yearly tonnage was down overall by 39.9 tons from 2023.

Pat stated that the Hometown strike is still going on and is part of what is affecting our tonnage. He does not expect any more to come back.

Tom Krieger commended Pat for things running so smoothly at the Transfer Station.

Pat then reported there were two radiation hits on December 20th, back-to-back. Both were handled without incident.

Pat then explained that the Transfer Station has been having issues with the computer system shutting down, causing excessive customer wait times. Jason has increased the internet speed to try

and combat some of these issues, and the software vendor has been contacted for further solutions. Hoping to also get a new credit card system to also speed up some customer transactions.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported that DIR has ordered equipment for the security system and are scheduling installation. They have targeted February 15th as the completion date for the project.

Jason stated they are working on an easement for the outfall area of our storm flow for the South Second Street project at Weis. The City of Sunbury and Weis Markets are working with SMA.

Jason reported he visited with the owners and management of Motortech at their headquarters in York, PA, following issues with new mechanical seals installed on the river plant pumps. The seals were "after-market" and failed. SMA came to an agreement with Motortech, and the pump has been reinstalled. Now a check valve is faulty and needs fixed.

Jason then stated he spoke with County Commissioner Meghan Beck regarding the Celotex site, and that she is not in favor of a solar farm and stated she will not be voting for it.

A discussion was then held regarding re-hiring Trent Schrader as summer help with an internship, as his course of study is Biology. He would spend half his time in the lab with Cammey, and would be paid at the rate of \$14.00/hr.

Jason then stated he received an email from Derrick Backer about a law firm contacting him regarding a class action lawsuit regarding microplastics in the water system. Pat Burke commented that testing for microplastics is very specific and expensive. Microplastics are an "emerging contaminant", and said if a suit comes into play, we should ask for the testing to be paid for.

Jason then requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke first talked about the proposed Packer Street and Sixth Street Sewer Main improvement projects. He reached out to CES Engineering and prepared a proposal. There was not enough time to review the proposals before this meeting, so it was requested to add to the next board meeting agenda for review.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for an outside surveyor, how to divert flow and prevent surcharging in the Sixth Street sewer main area, and also the challenges of working with wetlands, permitting, etc.

Pat next stated he is scheduling a meeting with SMA staff to develop a design concept for the Transfer Station deflectors.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter reviewed his report which provided draft letters created by Attorney Balducci before his leave, discussing the grease discharge into the sewer system, as well as a second

letter to the Dippels of Sixth Street regarding their sewer issues. These letters were for Board review and discussion.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to accept the Solicitor's Report as presented. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items for discussion were covered under the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS

Cory commented that he reviewed the categories in the budget and would like to meet with Jason to create the designated fund categories on the financial report sheets.

Tom McBryan stated he would like to see some 5- and 10-year investments considered in the near future.

The list of expenditures from December 3, 2024 - January 7, 2025, was presented for payment. On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

The board then went into Executive Session at 7:58 pm to discuss personnel issues and policies.

Executive Session ended at 8:35 pm.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was requested to reinstate employee Erik DePhillips back to the amount of vacation time earned from previous employment time at SMA, which would allow him a third week of vacation each year. Motion failed, with aye votes from Tom McBryan, Cory Fasold and Tom Krieger. Nay votes from Norm Koch, Tre Bittner, Larry Welfer and Dave Persing.

Cory Fasold then made a motion to have Solicitor Todd Kerstetter draft a new vacation policy to bring back for Board approval, including carrying over up to one year of the employee's level of vacation over to the following year. Cory then withdrew the motion.

Tom Krieger then made a motion to allow an employee to carry over 1 weeks' worth (40 hours maximum) of vacation time into the following year if not used, up to one year. This motion was seconded by Tom McBryan. Motion carried.

Tom McBryan then made a motion stating that an employee can only carry over one week of vacation time, OR get paid for that week at half their salary rate. Tre Bittner seconded the motion, with

Tom McBryan and Tre Bittner both voting yes. Cory Fasold, Tom Krieger, Larry Welfer and Dave Persing voted no. Motion failed.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor