

MOUNT PENN BOROUGH MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

OCTOBER 11, 2023

The regular meeting of the Mount Penn Borough Municipal Authority was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the meeting room of the John A. Becker Municipal Building, 200 North 25th Street, Reading, PA 19606.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Thomas Staron. The following Board members were present:

Vice Chairman Joeseeph Boyle
Alfred Worrall, Treasurer
Kelly Dudash, Assistant Treasurer
Josh Nowotarski, Secretary

Also present were the following:

Christeena Hauck, Office Manager
Matt Hauck, System Supervisor
Steve Riley, Entech Engineering
Mark Merolla, Solicitor

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION-

Michael Frankhouser, 1962 Woodvale Ave. asked the board to consider removing the added fluoride from drinking water. He explained the potential cost savings, the possible health benefits of removal, and the alternate ways of achieving the recommended fluoride during the critical teenage years. Discussion continued regarding the required steps prior to fluoride being discontinued which would require DEP approval.

Mr. Frankhouser also asked the board to consider replacing the split rail fence along the Hill Rd. border of the farmhouse property. The fence is in need of repair and at some places completely knocked down.

Josh Nowotarski motioned, seconded by Al Worrall, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2023, meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER- Alfred Worrall

The bills for the month of September were reviewed. Kelly Dudash questioned the M&A invoice for fire hydrant replacement. Matt Hauck explained the hydrant was hit during an accident involving an uninsured driver and now has a restitution claim filed with the district justice office.

Joe Boyle will cancel the Zoom Meeting electronic payment. Following discussion, motioned by Josh Nowotarski, seconded by Joe Boyle to approve the September Treasurer's Report. The motion carried unanimously.

Matt Hauck reported the temporary hose was removed and the first Antietam Creek crossing to Antietam Rd. was complete.

ENGINEER- Steven Riley

Motioned by Joe Boyle, seconded by Josh Nowotarski to approve the execution of the Stoney Creek Athletic Association (SCAA) easement and the Antietam School District easement upon final review and approval. All were in favor. At the SCAA property, the sediment was cleaned up and millings were laid in the parking area.

Perkiomen Ave. - The revised \$16,000 invoice for the betterment portion from the water main replacement was submitted by PennDOT. After discussion, Joe Boyle made the motion to authorize payment of the \$16,000.00, seconded by Kelly Dudash. The motion carried. Al Worrall voted no.

Resolution #04-23 Approving the Local Statewide Share Account grant application in the amount of \$650,000.00 for the Neversink Tank Painting and Rehabilitation. Motioned by Josh Nowotarski, seconded by Kelly Dudash. The motion carried unanimously. The project will include painting inside and out.

Steve Riley presented a letter requesting approval of additional engineering fees for the Spook Lane Tank Chapter 105/106 permit. After discussion, Josh Nowotarski made the motion to approve the additional engineering scope of work for Spook Lane Tank, seconded by Kelly Dudash. The motion carried unanimously.

SCADA - Reviewing the process of DCED and working with COSTARS. Steve Riley will also review with Mark Merolla to make sure using COSTARS complies with the conditions of the grant. The project will be reviewed after the cost has been determined.

The generators are now scheduled to be delivered in December.

WATER SYSTEM –Matthew Hauck

The monthly maintenance report was reviewed.

Matt Hauck explained the sewer lateral at 205 Emerald Ave. was not properly marked during the Emerald Avenue water main project. The homeowner at 205 Emerald Avenue called to report sewage in the basement. The lateral was hit during construction. The sewer lateral was not marked by AVMA during a PA One call. M&A was called to fix the lateral and Berks Fire and Water to clean the basement. Invoices were submitted to AVMA who refused to pay and claims the lateral is owned by Exeter Township. AVMA did mark the lateral for the repair by M&A. A portion of Exeter Township is called District One, these sewer mains flow into AVMA for processing. More information is requested.

After discussion, Josh Nowotarski made the motion to pay both the M&A and the Berks Fire and Water invoice a total of \$6,875.82 until the situation can be investigated further, seconded by Joe Boyle. The motion carried unanimously.

Matt Hauck explained the issue with the fire hydrants being used to supply water for flushing trucks and street sweepers. The hydrants are old and starting to become harder to repair, replacement is costly. Discussion continued regarding a fill station. After discussion, Joe Boyle made the motion to notify Antietam Valley Municipal Authority (AVMA), Mount Penn Borough and Lower Alsace Township the use of a hydrant for street sweeping or flushing purposes will no longer be permitted. Metered fill stations will need to be installed; the tapping fee will be waived. After discussion, Joe Boyle made the motion to generate the notice effective January 2024 the only use for hydrant will be MPBMA and fire company, seconded by Kelly Dudash. All were in favor.

After discussion, Al Worrall made the motion to buy out the Verizon contract of Sebastian Unger and move him onto the current AT&T plan at a cost of \$700.00, seconded by Joe Boyle. The motion carried unanimously.

COMPLETE MAINTENANCE REPORT ATTACHED

SOLICITOR- Mark Merolla

Mark Merolla reported the property at 1460 Friedensburg Rd. has abandoned both services. The invoice for \$4,000.00 will be generated.

2510 Park St. was acquired at a sheriff sale. The new owner is waiting for a check from the county to satisfy the outstanding balance.

708 Friedensburg Rd. is currently on the sheriff's sale docket. This property has a large outstanding balance.

PA American - A termination notice needs to be sent if the board is interested in renegotiating the contract.

The current lease with AVRCC is set to expire December 31, 2024.

BUSINESS OFFICE- Christeena Hauck

Christeena Hauck reported the humidity in the office is causing the envelopes to warp and get stuck in the folding machine. The technician suggested a small humidifier for the room where the products are stored. Josh Nowotarski made the motion to purchase a dehumidifier not to exceed \$100.00, seconded by Kelly Dudash. The motion carried unanimously.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION-

Joe Boyle reported the Growing Greener application is currently under review. Representative Rossi's office will submit a letter of support to DEP.

BOROUGH OF MT. PENN-

No Report.

ANTIETAM VALLEY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY (AVMA)-

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS-

No Report.

NEW BUSINESS-

Al Worrall reported he and Kelly Dudash will meet in early November to review budget numbers.

Joe Boyle made the motion to approve the 2024 MMO, seconded by Kelly Dudash. The motion carried unanimously.

A donation will be made to Mount Penn Fire Company in honor of Dennis Swartz in the amount of \$200.00, motioned by Joe Boyle, seconded by Al Worrall. All were in favor.

Matt Hauck is working with DEP regarding a duplicate sample issue. More information will be provided as he finds out.

Chairman Staron called for an Executive Session at 8:37 p.m. to discuss litigation and personnel. Regular Session resumed at 8:51 p.m. No action was taken.

The motion was made by Joe Boyle, seconded by Al Worrall, to adjourn the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christeena Hauck
Christeena Hauck
Business Office Manager