

West Hanover Township Authority Monthly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday December 1st, 2021

18 Attendees including Board, Staff, Solicitor and Public (5 Zoom, 3 In Person)

1. CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Fowler called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm

2. ROLL CALL: All board members present

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

a. Budget workshop minutes from November 3rd, 2021

b. Monthly meeting minutes from November 3rd, 2021

A motion was made to approve both sets of minutes as presented. Moved by Mr. Steinmeier, seconded by Mr. Shradley. Ms. Zimmerman abstained. Motion passed.

4. CORRESPONDANCE: None

5. BOARD COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Steinmeier asked if public works could be brought under the control of the Authority since a lot of their work is being billed to the Authority. Mr. Gossert responded they must be kept separate and bill the Authority for public works labor and jobs. We are dealing with tax dollars for the public works and fees for stormwater.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Enck – 7112 Hillside Road / Mike Kreiser – 483 Hershey Road
Both commented on use of the street sweeper.

7. PRESENTATIONS, STAFF & BOARD REPORTS:

a. Administration

i. Alexis' activity report for November

ii. Stormwater complaint log – No new updates

b. MS4 Projects

i. Rettew update as of 11/18/21

Mr. Fowler informed there is a meeting scheduled with Rettew in Mid-December to go over the conceptual design of the stream restoration at Beaver Creek.

ii. Update on COE

Mr. Gossert stated the agreement is in front of their general counsel. He is expecting it at any time and hoping to receive it before the 12/16/21 BOS meeting so it can be approved by the Township.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT:

a. Mr. Shradley stated the Mid Penn bank balance as of 11/29/21 is \$933,419.79.

b. Approval of invoices totaling \$253,761.47 (Salzmann Hughes, HRG, WHT June through October)

Mr. Gossert commented that he, Mr. Houck, Tara, and Alexis have spent a lot of time verifying amounts and they are confident they are accurate. Moving forward, The Authority should be receiving monthly or quarterly invoices from the Township. A motion was made to approve the invoices as presented.

Moved by Mr. Shradley, seconded by Mr. Steinmeier. Motion passed.

c. Mr. Shradley stated the October Keystone Collection Totals were \$6,939.05

i. 2020: \$935.30

- ii. 2021: \$6,003.75
- iii. November Keystone statement not yet available

9. OLD BUSINESS:

a. Set 2022 Stormwater Rate

Mr. Fowler stated the Authority board had three goals in 2021:

1. Set a stormwater rate that can be stable over the next three years
2. A rate that allows them to maintain a reasonable ending fund balance over that period
3. Provide rate relief for the residents.

Looking into 2022, there are four unknowns that will be a major impact the budget:

1. Learning the new DEP mandated pollution reduction requirements that will be imposed on the Township over the next five years
2. The analysis from the Army Corps. Of Engineers. We will learn the actual condition of our current stormwater system
3. The federal infrastructure bill and potential grant money requiring a match
4. Potential savings from participating in the County's regional stormwater program.

Each board member expressed their concerns with the upcoming assessments, expenses, and unknowns but were all in agreement a rate reduction for the residents was important. They had a discussion regarding the possibility of a rate reduction between 25-40%. Concerns included: timeliness of reimbursements from the government, holding back over the current permit cycle due to Covid and how that effects the next permit cycle and budget, increasing costs on projects and labor, accessibility of grant money and being proactive in obtaining it, staff shortage in the public works department, amount that should be in the fund balance, the results of the Army Corps. of Engineers analysis, and the unknowns of the next DEP permit cycle. Mr. Gossert and Mr. Houck's concerns were that there was not a real history on expenditures with a normal operation and the residents have yet to receive a consistent rate. They are more comfortable with 25% reduction.

Mr. Fowler asked for a motion to approve the 2022 tier rates at a reduced rate. Mr. Steinmeier moved to reduce the rate by 35%, seconded by Mr. Geppert. Motion passed.

b. Adopt 2022 Budget

Mr. Fowler stated the Authority has approved the budget except for the new reduced rate. The previously reviewed consolidated budget had numbers for a 25% and 40% reduction but not the newly approved 35%. Mr. Stinnett informed the board there is not a requirement for the budget to be adopted. He recommended a resolution adopting the budget at the January meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Approval of Credits

- i. C21-08, 7150 Sandy Hollow Road. Recommendation: Approval of 15% fertilizer management credit (\$250.26) and 25% peak flow attenuation credit (\$417.10)
Totaling \$667.36

Mr. Fowler made note that the calculated amounts were based off the 2021 rate so the approved credit amounts will slightly differ with the new 35% rate reduction.

- ii. C21-11, 483 Hershey Road. Recommendation: Approval of rain barrel credit (\$52)

A motion was made to approve the two credit applications. Moved by Mr. Shradley, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman. Motion passed.

- b. Approve 2022 monthly meeting dates, moving to 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6 pm starting in February of 2022.

Moving the meeting to the second Wednesday of the month will hopefully allow timelier invoices from the Township as well as a more current update from Keystone Collections. A motion was made to approve moving the monthly meeting. Moved by Mr. Geppert, seconded by Ms. Zimmerman. Motion passed.

11. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Enck – 7112 Hillside Road

Recommended the public works department use plastic pipes instead of metal.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

- a. Gloria Zimmerman – Thanked the public works crew for their hard work. She is glad the board could work together to bring rates down for the residents.
- b. Mike Geppert – Appreciates the board listening to each other to bring rates down.
- c. Max Shradley – Commented on use of the street sweeper. Wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- d. Don Steinmeier – Would like more residents to get involved with the Township and volunteer on the boards. Mr. Steinmeier commended Mr. Fowler on his job as chairman, he thanked everyone for his time as Vice-Chairman on the Authority board.
- e. Robert Fowler – Thanked Mr. Steinmeier for his service on the Authority board and looks forward to working with him in his role on the Board of Supervisors. He acknowledged Mr. Steinmeier and Ms. Zimmerman bring a great amount of historical knowledge of the Township. He is grateful the board was able to approve a rate reduction.

Happy Holidays were wished to all by the board.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Ms. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Shradley. The meeting ended at 7:54 pm.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
January 5th, 2022 @ 6:30 pm
February 9th, 2022 @ 6:00 pm