

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
DECEMBER 20, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitmarsh Township Authority of December 20, 2023, was called to order by Chairman Timothy Ferris at 7:00 p.m. and held in person at the Whitmarsh Township Authority office located at 2015 Joshua Road, Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania 19444.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Ferris led the Board and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board Members:

Timothy Ferris – Chairman
Jonathan Reisberg – Vice Chairman
Jeannette Quirus – Secretary
Jori Broad – Treasurer
Gene Swider – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer (Excused Absence)

Also in Attendance:

Alexander Glassman, Esquire – Rudolph Clarke, LLC (attended via Zoom)
Allen Mason, P.E. – Carroll Engineering Corp.
Brent Wagner – Executive Director
Thomas Bonjo – Operations Manager (Excused Absence)
Laurie Hagey – Director of Finance

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A **Motion** was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to approve the Minutes of the November 15, 2023 meeting of the Board. The motion unanimously carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board met in Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. The Meeting reconvened immediately following.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Personnel – Mr. Wagner requested a Motion approving annual incentive pay for three administrative employees, totaling \$3,500; as well as annual increases for two administrative employees, one for the Office Administrator of 5%, and the Operations Manager of 3%.

A Motion was made by Mr. Ferris, seconded by Ms. Broad, to approve annual incentive pay and annual increases for administrative employees of the Authority, as presented by Mr. Wagner. The motion unanimously carried.

Plant Operations - Mr. Wagner reported the facility handled the increased flow from the wet weather events this past month, and only experienced one minor overflow on Fields Drive.

Jet Truck - Mr. Wagner reported the Authority's Jet truck is no longer performing as needed or when needed and the expense to replace this truck will be large. He suggested the Authority could consider a lease agreement with Conshohocken for their jet truck. The Authority Solicitor is looking into this option and if it can be done it will be an item for the January meeting agenda.

Meeting with Whitemarsh Township Officials – Mr. Wagner reported he, Mr. Bonjo, and Ms. Hagey met with the current Whitemarsh Township Manager and the incoming Township Manager earlier this month to discuss the potential rate increase the Authority will need to implement in 2024.

2024 Meeting Dates – The Executive Director presented the 2024 proposed meeting dates and times for Board approval. All meetings will begin at 6:30 pm, except for the January meeting which will begin at 5:00 pm.

A Motion was made to Approve the 2024 Meeting Dates, as presented, by Ms. Broad, and seconded by Mr. Reisberg. The motion was unanimously carried. Meeting dates will be advertised in the local newspaper as well as on the Authority's website.

2024 Rate Increase – The Rate Study performed by HRG, discussed at the September meeting, and formally presented at the October meeting, was discussed at great length each month, including in November and this meeting as well. Mr. Wagner suggested the Authority implement a 30% rate increase in 2024 to cover the unknown costs the Authority may face as the County continues with their Ridge Pike Project, as well as to cover the Authority's need to rebuild capital for future upgrades to the collection lines and treatment facility.

A Motion to approve Resolution 2023-03, the implementation of a 2024 Sewer Rate Increase of 30% for the Whitemarsh Authority was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Reisberg. The motion was unanimously carried.

2024 Budget Approval – Mr. Wagner requested the Board approve the 2024 Budgets for Operations and Capital Projects, as presented. The 2024 Budget does reflect the 30% rate increase.

A Motion to approve the 2024 Operating and Capital Budgets for the Whitemarsh Authority was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Broad. The motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Ridge Pike Widening County Project – Mr. Mason reported the Montgomery County's Ridge Pike widening project is set to resume on January 2nd.

931 Spring Mill Avenue – Mr. Mason reported the 931 Spring Mill Avenue condominium project, which is for a proposed 20 units, has been executed by the Township and the planning module mailed to PA DEP for approval.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Resolutions to Close Escrow Accounts for two Home Properties, LP Escrows. One is for 1101 E. Hector Street in the amount of \$9,208.47; and the other for Home Properties, LP is for Sherry Lake Apartments, in the amount of \$3,839.00. An Escrow Account with SJ Paone for Coldpoint Farm is also being closed, in the amount of \$1,824.15.

A Motion was made by Mr. Reisberg, seconded by Ms. Quirus, to approve Resolution 2023-05; closing the Escrow Account for 1101 E. Hector Street in the amount of \$9,208.47; and Resolution 2023-04 closing the Escrow Account for Sherry Lake Apartments in the amount of \$3,839.00, returning these remaining escrow funds to Home Properties, LP, unanimously carried.

A Motion was made by Mr. Ferris, seconded by Ms. Broad, to approve Resolution 2023-06; closing the Escrow Account for Coldpoint Farm in the amount of \$1,824.15, and returning the remaining escrow funds to SJ Paone Development, Incorporated, unanimously carried.

Approval of Sewage Disposal Agreement for 551 E. 10th Avenue; Transition at Spring Mill - Mr. Glassman requested approval of the Sewage Disposal Agreement for 551 E. 10th Avenue, Conshohocken; Transition at Spring Mill, which will require 17 EDUs.

A Motion to approve the Sewage Disposal Agreement for 551 E. 10th Avenue; Transition at Spring Mill requiring 17 EDUs, was made by Mr. Ferris, seconded by Mr. Reisberg, and unanimously carried.

Resolution to Accept Dedication of Sewer Facilities/Maintenance Bond for Oaks at Lafayette Hill - Mr. Glassman requested approval of a Resolution to accept dedication of sewer facilities and maintenance bond for the Oaks at Lafayette Hill.

A Motion was made by Ms. Quirus, seconded by Mr. Ferris, to approve the Resolution accepting dedication of the sewer facilities and maintenance bond for the completed Oaks at Lafayette Hill development, unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hagey stated she had nothing to add to the financial statement presented, but mentioned the November commercial billing payments are being received at this time.

Approval of Monthly Expenditures – A Motion was made by Mr. Ferris, seconded by Ms. Broad, to pay the expenditures as presented in the amount of \$237,022.84, unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.