

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
NOVEMBER 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitemarsh Township Authority of October 18, 2023, was called to order by Chairman Timothy Ferris at 7:00 p.m. and held in person at the Whitemarsh 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 (Excused Absence)
Jeannette Quirus – Secretary (Excused Absence)
Jori Broad – Treasurer
Gene Swider – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Michael Clarke, Esquire – Rudolph Clarke, LLC
Allen Mason, P.E. – Carroll Engineering Corp.
Brent Wagner – Executive Director
Thomas Bonjo – Operations Manager
Laurie Hagey – Director of Finance

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Reisberg and seconded by Ms. Quirus to approve the Minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting of the Board. The motion unanimously carried.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Plant Operations - Mr. Wagner reported the facility passed the wet test, a PA DEP requirement. He also reported two of the Operators have taken the state test for licensure; however, the results are not immediate.

Manhole Overflow - Mr. Wagner reported the Authority was notified of overflowing manholes on Washington Street in Conshohocken earlier this month; however, the incident was the result of a pump station failure at the Conshohocken Authority. The issue was quickly resolved and no action needed to be taken by the Whitemarsh Authority.

Force Main Break – Mr. Wagner reported the Authority experienced a force main break near Penn Street on November 5th. The Chief of Operations reported the day-long repair was made, cleaned up, and reported to PADEP, which is required when this occurs. The PADEP inspector visited the site the next day and was impressed with the clean-up and timeliness of the repair and reporting.

Rate Study/Rate Increase – The Rate Study performed by HRG, discussed at the September meeting, and formally presented at the October meeting, was discussed. Mr. Wagner entertained questions from the Board of Directors regarding the possible rate increase for 2024 and the Board expressed their concerns about the increase. Mr. Wagner explained the reasoning, such as the unknown costs the Authority may face as the County continues on with their Ridge Pike Project, as well as the Authority's need to rebuild capital for future upgrades to the facility. He also stated the Board will need to take action on this item at the December meeting so we can give as much notice as possible to those affected by a rate increase.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Application for Payment; BSI – Mr. Mason requested approval of Payment #9 to BSI Electric for Contract 20-3E in the amount of \$7,000.00 for the Sludge Dewatering Facilities.

A Motion approving Application for Payment #9 to BSI Electric in the amount of \$7,000.00 was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Broad. The Motion was unanimously carried.

Application for Payment; Blooming Glen – Mr. Mason requested approval of Payment #24 (Final) to Blooming Glen Contractors in the amount of \$30,399.00 for Contract 20-3G for the Sludge Dewatering Facilities.

A Motion was made approving Application for Payment #24 (Final) to Blooming Glen Contractors in the amount of \$30,399 for Contract 20-3G; Sludge Dewatering Facilities, by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Swider. The Motion unanimously carried.

6312 Joshua Road - Mr. Mason reported he received the application materials from the homeowner of 6312 Joshua Road, which he forwarded on to PennDOT so they can issue the HOP (Highway Occupancy Permit) after their review.

Tapping Fee Recalculation - Mr. Mason stated he submitted a Proposal to the Authority for a recalculation of the Authority's Tapping Fees. Ms. Hagey stated the Proposal was received and Mr. Wagner was currently reviewing.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Approve Deed of Dedication; Oaks at Lafayette Hill - Mr. Clarke requested approval of the Deed of Dedication for the Oaks at Lafayette Hill; Phases I, II & III, now that the Authority Engineer is satisfied with the completion of this project.

A Motion to Approve the Deed of Dedication for Oaks at Lafayette Hill; Phases I, II & III, was made by Ms. Broad, seconded by Mr. Swider, and unanimously carried.

Approve Deed of Dedications; Wainwright - Mr. Clarke requested approval of the Deed of Dedications received to date for the Wainwright Properties.

A Motion was made by Mr. Ferris, seconded by Mr. Swider, to approve the Deed of Dedications the Authority has received to date for the Wainwright Properties, unanimously carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Hagey reported the revenues are up due to the October 1 Residential Billing, and she mentioned the Commercial Billing will be going out as soon as water meter readings are received.

Ms. Hagey reported the Preliminary 2024 Budgets for Operating and Capital Projects are complete and she will be circulating those to the Board for their input. The Budget will need to be approved at the December meeting. She also mentioned the Budget was created with a rate increase projection for 2024.

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 \$206,836.09, unanimously carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.