

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE BOARD OF THE  
PLUM CREEK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

A regular meeting of the Board of The Plum Creek Municipal Authority was held on December 20, 2022, at the Plum Creek Municipal Authority Business Office Building, South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Board members present at the meeting were Jim Ridderhoff, Jerry Weiss, and Matt Gruber. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO Water Services), Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering) and property owners Jack Brennan, Joe Haggerty, Richard Hardy, and Joe Chicora.

Jim Ridderhoff called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The minutes for the October 2022 meeting, were accepted by motion of Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, carried by all. There was no meeting November 2022 due to the absence of a quorum.

The Treasurer's report for October 2022 and November 2022 were reviewed and accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO Water Services), submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting:

- Copies of the following information has been submitted by ARRO Water Services to PA DEP on the authority's behalf and are viewable via PA DEP website via the eDMR.
  - Discharge Monitoring Report and Supplemental Reports

In water operations, Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- October 3: Meter reading/Clean up.
- October 6: Meter change-out
- October 10: Meter change-out – no water; PA1 for 42 Papoose drive
- October 15: Meter change-out – no/low water pressure
- October 19: Meter change-out - no/low water pressure
- November 3, 4, 7 and 10: Hydrant Flushing
- November 23: Marked PA1 call; water shut off.
- November 23: Brought pickup truck back from the garage.
- November 28: Well 3 service call; water shut off.
- November 30: Final read at 435 Mohave drive
- Booster Station: Normal operations; nothing to report.

In sewage operations, Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant was not in service for this month
- There were 62 pumps done (20 HT and 42 Septic) for the month of October; 47 pumps done (15 HT and 32 Septic) for November 2022.

Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO) said A One Services completed the repair for the pressure relief valve for Well 6. The well pump is on its way and may be done by Friday. Well 3 has had a longstanding characteristic of producing highly aerated water and it is noticed by the consumers. It is something that we do get complaints about when we run that well.

Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO) suggested that a round of sampling be done on the water that is being produced by that well and check for methane. Patrick said he would also look into buying a VFD (variable frequency drive) for that well pump. That way we can control that pump speed. Nancy (Office) said the Aqua Freed treatment was done on Well 3 on July 12, 2021. Patrick said this has been happening since 2015 with Well 3 but it has gotten worse. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she will follow up on this and see if there are any other recommendations.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said tomorrow they are putting in the aeration piping in and they asked that the operator be present. Jamie talked to Matthew Crump (ARRO), and he said Andy (ARRO) will be here and will witness them doing the startup of the aeration piping. Jamie said they put together the aeration piping (the drop pipe and the diffusers) and there was a question about the how that was connected because there are two pipes' stubs coming into the tank. So, they were questioning which one is from the blowers and what the other one was for. Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO) said he thinks both of those lines have become (dead) lines and they ran a line off the end of the floor manifold, under the door, and out. Patrick said there is one load of sludge to be taken out. Nancy (Office) checked with Mike Strouse and he can take a load of sludge on Thursday to Deer Lake.

Jerry Weiss asked Jamie Lorah (SSM) when the outside haulers start dumping at our plant – how do we pay the haulers. Jim Ridderhoff said when he contracted emergency services with Strouse Bros. and Septic Solutions, we set up a schedule for hauling right now to outside places, when the plant opens there would be a different rate for when they would haul it to our plant. Jim said it was an oral agreement. Jerry said he has concerns that there was no written contract with the outside haulers and that information is not being shared.

At 6:15 p.m. Jerry Weiss made a motion that he wanted to adjourn the meeting (there was no second to the motion).

Jack Brennan said a lawyer will investigate the list of concerns that were given to Jamie Lorah (SSM) to solve before we do an Act 537 plan. Jerry Weiss said wouldn't it be the same thing going through a consultant. Jamie said the next step is to go to an Environmental Hearing Board with DEP and trying to litigate it. Jerry said Chapter 73 – where if he bought a piece of land, he has a right to appeal to DEP about making the municipal provide sewerage. Jack said what they are trying to say to you under Chapter 73 is that you must provide sewerage to every lot and that is true if the thing was planned yesterday not thirty, fifty years ago. That is why we want a lawyer to go in there and say this development is fifty years old and you cannot roll these regulations back to 1970 and make everybody have sewerage at every lot.

Jerry Weiss asked Jamie Lorah (SSM) if we can still follow our current permit. Jamie said your treatment plant permit has to do with discharging not about how it is brought into the plant. Jerry said at the meeting he asked the permit person – what permits do we need to expand this, what does DEP need to know. Jerry said the permit person said all they want to know is what you are doing and get your permits from the townships or whatever you need to do. Jerry said if you want to dig into the side of this hill, go right back, put the new tanks in to replace these tanks, or can we get around it with the new tanks going into the old tanks to keep our permit. Jamie said you can rehabilitate the tanks but if you are changing the tank size you need to get a permit amendment to do that. Jerry said we have a simple solution out here. Joe Haggerty said yes you have a simple solution, but it is only going to buy you so much time. Joe said the solution is to start the plant with one tank and use outside haulers. Jack Brennan said that does not solve the problem. Jack asked Jerry how long he wants the process to go on - we have been doing it for a couple of years. Jerry said as long as it needs to take.

Matt Gruber said wasn't it told to us that when we get the plant up and running, we must have our own driver. Jim Ridderhoff said they said to try and get your own drivers. Jim said we have a help wanted ad going for months but have not gotten a response. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said the permit is for discharging not how it is brought into the plant and as long as you are discharging and meeting permit limits there would be no fine.

Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO) said he has a question - if the haulers are bringing in and dumping - is the operator then going to be maintaining the dump station because that was always like (a Carl) the driver. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said the solids were always raked out of the screen. Jim Ridderhoff said that will be part of their cleaning it out. Patrick said the operator should have all the haulers phone numbers. Nancy (office) said she will make a copy of the phone list for Andy (ARRO). Jamie said once she hears everything went well with installing the aeration pipe, she will send something to DEP and let them know. Jamie said she would plan on Monday for dumping at the plant because that would give DEP a couple of days to review the material she is sending them. Patrick said his last day with ARRO is Friday, but he would like to bring Andy in on Saturday and train him at the plant because the plant has been down since Andy has been here.

Joe Chicora said he attended the meeting tonight about lot 134. He is trying to help his daughter with purchasing that lot. The guy that owns the property since the seventies, lives in Illinois, he is not going to pay his dues, or the water availability fee, but he does pay the taxes. Joe said his daughter offered \$6,000 to the owner and then each entity (PCMA & LWPOA) would each get paid \$3,000. Joe will send a letter to both the PCMA Board and LWPOA Board with an offer for the lot.

Jack Brennan said with the Act 537 plan - which direction is the Board headed. Are you going to continue with the Act 537 plan, are you going to keep the plant open, are you going to run the plant, are you going to shut the plant down, there are a lot of issues. What is the long-term solution for the community. Joe Chicora said if you are going to keep the plant running for ten years what is it going to cost. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said it is over a million. Jamie said they also looked at rebuilding a plant on another site and that was at least two and half million. Jerry Weiss said why can't you take off the bad roof and walls, weatherize, and put new electrical in, wouldn't that be cost savings there. Jamie said you could do some structural repairs to the roof/walls and all the electrical must be moved inside a room. Jamie said there is an odor control issue because you are right up against homes. Patrick "PJ" O'Boyle (ARRO) said because of the low flow, the freeze potential, there are going to be hurdles. Jerry said how do we fix the walls. Jamie said there is patching that could be done. Jamie said a structural review of the building has not been done since 2016. Jamie said her understanding is that it is in worse condition, especially the roof and the walls. Jamie said an option is to get another structural review of the building and they can come up with a cost estimate to keep the plant operational. Jim Ridderhoff said we are trying to get the plant back up and running so that we are in compliance. Jim said once we are in compliance then we can go and fight the Act 537 plan and attorney Bruder might be that option, but he does not know. Patrick said the dump station also has structural issues.

At 7:25 p.m. Jerry Weiss rescinded his motion to adjourn the meeting.

In legal matters, no report given. Joe Zerbe could not attend the meeting.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM) said we need a vote for Liberty Environmental to submit the oil spill report to DEP. The report says that ground right outside the door, on both side of the stoop, is contaminated and must be remediated. Also, found some trace of benzene in the ground water. Jamie asked them to provide a change order to remediate the site because that is the next thing that will be required by DEP once they review that letter.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said she received a Change Order No. 1, from Liberty Environmental, for the soil excavation and offsite disposal, the post-excavation soil attainment sampling, groundwater investigation – with two rounds of well sampling, and preparation of a site investigation and remediation report to DEP as a total cost of \$39,715. That is all their consulting fees, sampling, drilling of the groundwater wells, removal of the soil assuming seven tons of waste soil, and 1,000 gallons of wastewater. Jerry Weiss asked when they remove the seven tons of soil are they replacing it. Jamie said it does not say about replacing the soil, but she will find out. Patrick “PJ” O’Boyle (ARRO) said he would like to voice his concerns – talking about the structure of the building – he is concerned about removing seven tons of material that has naturally settled over the forty–fifty years that the plant has been there – his recommendation is to shut down the plant from start to finish so there is no one in the building when this is being done. Jamie will follow up with Liberty on what is covered. Matt Gruber asked Nancy (Office) to email this Change Order to Joe Zerbe and have him look at it. Because the Board members just received this Change Order and did not have time to review it – this was tabled till the next meeting.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board accepted Liberty Environmental’s report, as printed, to be submitted to DEP, regarding the oil spill at the plant.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board approved the Payment Application No. 1 for the EQ Tank Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$49,629.80 to be paid to LB Industries.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board approved the Robert Heaps Landscaping proposal, \$700 per push, for Snow Plowing, for Plum Creek Municipal Authority.

Patrick “PJ” O’Boyle (ARRO) said back in 2015 – he observed the end of the truck line (the main line for aeration) to the basins, there was something that was cut off and a blank welded over it. The two blowers that were out there to provide aeration to those EQ tanks were both broken. So, Mike Stewart, had the welder weld a stub onto the main truck line to provide air out there. Then at some point in time the aerators broke, air was just getting wasted, so he had the welder come in and cut that off and weld a blank on it. Jamie said she does not know if they will be able to test the aeration. Jamie said they might have to create a line to the blowers.

Jim Ridderhoff said the 2004 Ford Ranger pickup truck will not pass inspection.

Upon motion by Jim Ridderhoff, seconded by Jerry Weiss, and carried by all, the Board agreed to sell the 2004 Ford Ranger for \$500 to an interested party.

Upon motion by Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, and carried by all, the Board approved the KR Concrete proposal, for \$2500, to replace the storage tank steps.

The following agenda items were tabled Emergency Response Plan Rev. 10, Attorney Paul Bruder’s Agreement Letter, and hiring a consultant to advise PCMA on sewage matters.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said in the event that they find the blowers are not connected to the EQ tank – do we authorize them to add a PVC line and take it out to the tanks so the tank can be aerated. The Board said absolutely.

There being no further business, Matt Gruber motioned for adjournment, Jerry Weiss seconded the motion, carried by all. Jim Ridderhoff adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.  
Meeting minutes were taken, prepared, and submitted by Nancy Wesner.