

**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 January 17, 2023, at the Plum Creek Municipal Authority Business Office Building, South Manheim Township, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania.

Board members present at the meeting were Jerry Weiss, Matt Gruber, and Ryan Achenbach. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Karl Schmidt (ARRO Water Services), Tommy Ryan (ARRO Water Services), Joe Zerbe, Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering) and property owners Joe Haggerty, Richard Hardy, and Joe Chicora.

Ryan Achenbach called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The first order of business was Reorganization. Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the PCMA Board Officer positions for 2023 are: Jim Ridderhoff – Treasurer & Co-Chairman, Jerry Weiss – Secretary & Co-Chairman, Matt Gruber – Co-Chairman, Ryan Achenbach – Co-Chairman. Corby Lewis resigned as of December 28, 2022.

The minutes for the December 2022 meeting, were accepted by motion of Matt Gruber, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for December 2022 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

Karl Schmidt (ARRO Project Manager and Point of Contact) introduced himself and reviewed the manager's reported that was submitted by David Kline (ARRO).

David Kline (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, David Kline (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- December 5: Service line repairs on lots 1930 and 2078 Wynonah Drive
- December 6: Hydrant replacement on Running Deer Drive
- December 7: Hydrant replacement on Wynonah Drive
- December 12: Meter reading
- December 16: Water line inspection; worked with Kohl Bros. at Well 1 to review and adjust sub monitor for underload value.
- December 18: Emergency water meter replacement for 1268 Squaw Drive
- December 19: Meter read from emergency replacement; water shut off at 201 Hatchet Cove
- December 20: Well 6 pressure relief / valve repair with A One Mechanical
- December 21: On-site airline testing for air diffusers in EQ tank; freed stuck valves and adjusted/inspected airline flow.
- December 25: Emergency water meter replacement for 314 Sioux Drive; Water main break and emergency repair at 290 Sioux Drive
- December 26: Meter readings
- December 27: Emergency call out for frozen water meter burst.

- December 28: Meter readings
- December 29: Meter readings
- Booster Station: Normal operations; nothing to report.

In sewage operations, David Kline (ARRO Water Services) reported that:

- Wastewater Treatment Plant was not in service for this month.
- There were 61 pumps done (20 HT and 41 Septic) for the month of December 2022.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said Nancy (Office) and I have talked to Tommy Ryan (ARRO) a couple of times about the monthly invoice. Joe said he received an email from Casey (ARRO), and Casey wants to have an in person meeting and that is fine with him but thinks Nancy should be involved in it. As long as the Board is okay with it, that way we can get it ironed out. The Board agreed. Joe said ARRO does some things different than Mike Kreiser (SES) did but thinks we will be able to work it out.

Joe Zerbe said Joe Chicora is in the audience and he has done legal work for him and his family and just wanted to disclose that to the Board members because he knows he is here to ask the Board about his daughter purchasing a lot at the lake that there is money owed on.

Joe Zerbe looked at the contract for the remediation oil spill at the plant and he talked to Jamie Lorah (SSM). Jamie got the questions answered that we were talking about, and they did provide a certificate of insurance. Joe said he talked to Jamie if there would be any reason that this would have to be put out for bid because of the amounts. Jamie's statement to Joe was that this can be considered an emergency because if this problem in the ground would get into the creek, we would have a bigger problem. Joe said we have a good faith argument that it is an emergency and if the Board wants to award the contract tonight Joe does not have any issues with it.

Joe Zerbe said Nancy (Office) asked him about the sale of the old pickup truck and told him the circumstances. Joe said he did not see anything in the municipalities planning code that prohibited the sale of the truck and as long as in good faith the Board thought they were getting a fair price for it -- Joe had no issue with it.

Joe Zerbe said he received two liens to be filed and they will be done this week.

Joe Zerbe said he received a call from Bob Allen. Joe said the advice Bob gave to pass onto the Board was he indicated that you are going to have to follow Scott Novatnak's (DEP) procedure. Bob Allen was a State Representative for many years, and now he does consultant work for Municipal Authorities.

In engineering matters, Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on the Act 537 for the past month we have not really done anything. We are waiting for further direction moving forward.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on the EQ tank rehabilitation project we had thought it was complete and that everything was disconnected both the influent and discharge sides of the east tank. However, Jamie said her understanding is that they came out last week and tried to put flow through the plant and it ended up putting flow (about 1500 gallons) into the east tank. They could not reach the influent side of the tank without digging down to it. Last week they dug down to it and they were able to unearth the existing valve (it was not operable above ground) and they had to remove the valve and the piping that had connected the east tank to the septage receiving station and they added a blind flange. Now, everything that goes through the septage receiving station will go into the west (rehabilitated) tank.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said that the additional work they did last week – they have provided a Final Payment Application, which includes the release of the retainage, as well as a Change Order for their work in the amount of \$5,957.76. The bill that they issued to us is in the amount of \$11,107.76. Jamie said she sent a letter of recommendation to pay LB Industries for the work as well as with the additional work they had to do, and then that will close out their project. They were able to do so in time to get a load of seed sludge (5,000 gallons) delivered, by Strouse Brothers, on Friday and discharged from the septage receiving tank down into the EQ tank. Today, ARRO was working at trying to release some of that flow into the plant and they had a blockage or issue with the pinch valve, and they were able to get that open to a point where it can allow ten gallons per minute of wastewater into the plant. The aeration system does work inside the tank so it can aerate it and keep everything in suspension. We must be careful how much we put into the tank because there is only roughly 20,000 gallons of capacity and if the valve is only open to ten gallons per minute – it is going to take all day for that to drain. A letter was sent to DEP last week notifying them that the plant was going to be placed back into service yesterday and technically it was because we put flow into the tank.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) did meet with Joe Zerbe about the oil spill remediation. We did get confirmation from Liberty Environmental that they will be replacing the soil that they remove, they will be vacuum excavating as much as they can or by hands means, because they are concerned about the location of effluent pipe and being close to that. They will be bringing in clean stone and backfilling their excavation. Jamie said SSM did submit a proposal to do a structural review of the building – if you wanted to do that prior to doing digging – you can but they will not be undermining the building. They will not be going under the building. They did confirm that this is all inclusive, but it is a budgetary number. They have recommended three monitoring wells be dug and each of them be fifteen feet. However, if they find the groundwater table is up like it was like when they were out here before it could only be five to ten feet and if that is the case you would be charged for that not the fifteen feet. They also have given an additional fee of \$3,700 for them to replace the concrete pad. This is not included in the \$39,220 proposal.

Jerry Weiss said Miller Mechanical was out and said the pipes are bad. We had to have a bypass put in so the office could have water. Jerry said looking at the piping situation with the water and the electrical that we have to bring up to code – what can we get out of structural evaluation. Can we find out if we can operate by refurbishing – putting the stuff that is electrical in a shelter and all the other stuff that needs to be weatherized and run the tanks. The reason we have so much corrosion is because it is enclosed. The roof is no good and the walls have some stress fractures. Jerry said after this can we come to a conclusion about bidding this out for someone to come in and do this all at one time instead of doing it by piecemeal. The truck garage also has to be looked at. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said the septage receiving station and the wastewater treatment building are included in the evaluation. Jamie asked Joe Zerbe about his feeling on the COSTARS program and if the Board would select a COSTARS contractor to replace the roof. Joe said he has no issue with it as long as we can determine it is legal. Jamie said it is an engineering evaluation that will give you a cost for replacement for different components.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board accepted Liberty Environmental Scope Change No. 1 for fuel oil spill remediation in the amount of \$39,220. This will be a direct contract with Liberty Environmental and the Authority.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board approved LB Industries change order in the amount of \$5,957.76 for the EQ tank line and valve elimination.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board approved the Structural Evaluation proposal in the amount of \$5,600 and the Electrical Evaluation proposal in the amount of \$4,800 from SSM Engineering.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said an email had been sent to her regarding Sioux Drive water line. Jamie said from her understanding there is only a three-inch water line there and it is Schedule 40 PVC. Jamie said they would recommend doing a four-inch line and replace the valves on both sides. That could be part of why there have been so many issues and it is a pretty steep slope. Jamie said if you wish to bid that out, she is just letting the Board know ahead of time it could be \$150 per linear foot or more with paving.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board agreed to have Jamie Lorah (SSM) get pricing on replacing the water main on Sioux drive with four-inch pipe and replace the valves.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the engineering firm of SSM Group was reappointed for the year 2023.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the legal firm of Zerbe Law Offices was reappointed for the year 2023.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the accounting firm of Jones & Co was reappointed for the year 2023.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, Seltzer Insurance was reappointed as the insurance agent for the year 2023.

Upon motion by Jerry Weiss, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board accepted the offer of \$3,000, from Amanda Chicora, for lot 134 Navajo Drive. The Board's understanding is that the lots will be combined. A copy of the sales agreement will be sent to the PCMA office.

The following agenda item, Attorney Paul Bruder's Agreement Letter to represent PCMA in discussions with DEP, was tabled till the next meeting.

Upon motion by Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, and carried by all, the 2023 Budget, prepared by Jim Ridderhoff, was reviewed and approved.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said on Well #3 she had a geologist look at the drilling record and his take on it is the pump is as low as he would recommend putting it. He would not lower the pump. That was discussed with Kohl Bros. He wondered if the bubbling in Well #3 happened before the Aqua Freed treatment or if it was since the treatment. He suggested it could be some bubbling of CO2 or gases from when the treatment was done. He recommended doing a sampling for four different gas compounds. Jamie said Well #3 is a large producer. The testing might cost at least \$300.

Ryan Achenbach said he had asked Dave Bright (SSM) (who attended the meeting when Jamie was out) to put together a proposal to do a water study so we can start trying to figure out how we can handle water rates and still have money to put aside for infrastructure replacement, etc. Jamie

said Dave did not have details on that but if the Board can let Jamie know what they are looking for she can put together a proposal.

Upon motion by Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Matt Gruber, and carried by all, the Board approved the testing on the air content in Well # 3.

Joe Haggerty asked if the any of the cost of the oil spill remediation will be covered by the municipal insurance. Joe Zerbe said the insurance company denied coverage. Nancy (office) will email Joe Zerbe the documents received from the insurance company. Ryan Achenbach said we need the remediation done and it needs to be paid but he is still open in regards to how we are going to handle recourse on the oil spill.

There being no further business, Ryan Achenbach motioned for adjournment, Jerry Weiss seconded the motion, carried by all. Ryan Achenbach adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

Meeting minutes were taken, prepared, and submitted by Nancy Wesner.