

**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 May 21, 2024, 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, Ryan Achenbach, and Mike Flynn Jr. Also, in attendance were Nancy Wesner (PCMA Office), Joe Zerbe, Jamie Lorah (SSM Engineering), Matthew Crump (Precision Operations), and property owners Joe Haggerty and David Mengel.

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

The minutes for the April 2024 meeting were accepted by motion of Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Mike Flynn, carried by all.

The Treasurer's report for April 2024 was reviewed and accepted by motion of Ryan Achenbach, seconded by Jerry Weiss, carried by all.

David Kline (ARRO Water Services) submitted a written manager's report to the Board prior to the meeting: There are no water or sewer system violations for the month of April 2024. Copies of the following information have been submitted by ARRO Water Services to PA DEP on the authority's behalf – DWELR Report, Discharge Monitoring Report and Supplemental Reports.

In water operations and Booster Station Operations, David Kline (ARRO Water Services) had nothing to report.

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

- There were 31 pumps done (13 HT and 18 Septic) for the month of April 2024.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) asked the Board if there is anything specific that they want to see in the Managers Report going forward. Mike Flynn said any unusual problems that you come across. Ryan Achenbach said to include the number of pumps done for the month. Nancy (office) said to include the Well Summary report.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said the doors at the Booster Station and Well No. 1 should be replaced. The Board said Matthew should get an estimate for replacements for the next meeting.

Mike Flynn said he wants to make Matthew aware that a valve exercise program was started last year. Mike said he does not think any were exercised yet, but they were located and painted so they are easier to find.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said we were going to be doing quarterly water testing on the iron and manganese. Jamie thinks it was done two times but not in the last three months. The intention was to see if there was any seasonal changes and then make adjustments to the Klenphos based on the results. Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) will get together with Jamie and review this.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said there was one leak found on Wagon Wheel and it is on the customer's side underneath the driveway. Matthew said the majority of leaks were not main breaks but the service line breaking at the main.

Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said the way it was set up when it was put in there are no corp stops, originally it goes into the pipe, and with every repair that was done they added a corp stop to the pipe. Matthew said a corp stop is basically a curb stop but it threads into the water main and that way you are able to turn that service off, so that you can service that line without having to shut down the whole main.

Jim Ridderhoff asked about the maintenance work being done on Well No. 6. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said they were flushing all weekend and yesterday out of Well No. 6. They waste the water coming out after they do the treatment because it has too much CO2 in it. Matthew Crump (Precision Ops) said the flushing is done. Matthew said they have the new pump in and were doing the flow test today. The old pump will be kept as a spare.

In legal matters, Joe Zerbe said he did routine legal services, filed, and satisfied some liens.

Jamie Lorah (SSM) submitted a written monthly engineer's report to the Board prior to the meeting.

RECAP: Booster Pumping Station – Co-Stars proposals were obtained for the Booster Pumping Station replacement and controls, which include a Quadplex (4 pumps) Booster Pumping Station on Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs). A revised proposal was obtained from Kohl Bros in the amount of \$184,000 (not-to-exceed) in order to complete this work, which provided prevailing wage rates, as required by PENNVEST.

UPDATE: Kohl Bros. has been approved to begin ordering the equipment for this project following PENNVEST closing.

RECAP: Well Water – samples were taken at each of the Wells (raw water and finished water), as well as the Storage Tank, for Iron and Manganese. Samples will be taken on a Quarterly basis with adjustments made to the Klenphos addition as needed. Samples are also required for CO2 at each of the wells to determine if the concentrations are high due to AquaFreed treatment, etc. We had reached out to two (2) well drillers to obtain quotes for televising Well No. 3 to determine if we can locate the source of the bubbles and possibly mitigate this. This work has been tabled for now, due to improvements in water quality.

RECAP: PP&L 3-Phase Power: The Well No. 6 pumps have been shutting down due to “current instability.” PP&L has installed true 3-Phase Service at Well No. 6. Unfortunately, this has not completely resolved the Well Pump “instability,” but Kohl Bros. is modifying the instability to increase the tolerance level, and they will do so the next time they are in the area.

UPDATE: On May 1, 2024, SSM submitted work orders for the conversion to true 3-Phase Service at the other Wells and the Booster Station.

UPDATE: Proposals were previously obtained from Subsurface Technologies for the Aqua Freed Process for Well No. 6 in the amount of \$43,545. This treatment work began on May 13th and may be underway until the end of the month. The Well pump is currently being replaced with a larger pump that can provide 100 GPM of water in accordance with the well's permitted capacity. The purchase and installation of the pump was awarded to Subsurface Technologies in the amount of \$11,755. A Public Water Supply Permit Application for this pump replacement was submitted to the PADEP on April 18th. However, since this is only a replacement with a pump of similar capacity, PADEP has determined there was no permit approval necessary for this work.

UPDATE: The Authority also requested pricing for low- and high-level alarms at the storage tanks, control wiring, and an auto dialer for the booster station.

Kohl Bros. visited the booster station on May 6th and provided three (3) options for monitoring the individual tank levels: (1) Install a submersible level sensor from the top of each tank, which would be difficult due to the tank height and susceptibility to weather conditions; (2) Install a manhole with pressure sensor at the outlet piping for each tank; or (3) Install a pressure sensor on the suction piping in the booster station, indirectly measuring the level of both tanks simultaneously. This last option would be the most simple and cost-effective solution. A quote for Option No. 3 is pending.

*Jamie Lorah (SSM) said Dave Gettle (Kohl Bros) can put pressure sensors in, a panel with display, relays for alarms, and the cost for that was \$8,000. A data logger can be added to the panel for \$1,500 to \$2,000. This includes wiring, conduit, and installation. The controller has four relays for level alarms, etc. One of the relays can be a low-level output to a dialer. They can provide a dialer, but they do not know the cost for that item. The Board asked Jamie to get more cost options for the next meeting.*

UPDATE: Quotes were received for generators from Cleveland Brothers and GenServe.

Two (2) quotes were received from Cleveland Brothers, including: (1) a permanent generator in the amount of \$48,500 for the Booster Station, and (2) a portable generator in the amount of \$58,536 that can be used at any of the Well sites. Pricing for both options includes freight and delivery costs, as well as installation. Note: this does not include the installation of transfer switches at each of the Well sites.

Two (2) quotes were received from GenServe as well, for the purchase of the equipment, including: (1) a permanent generator in the amount of \$34,507 for the Booster Station (30 kW) and \$41,848 (60 kW); and (2) a portable 50 kW generator in the amount of \$84,791 that can be used at any of the Well sites. The portable generator quote also includes four (4) transfer switches and cables. Pricing for both options includes delivery costs. Note: pricing does not include labor costs. GenServe will need to visit the Well sites in order to provide labor pricing.

*The Board tabled the decision on a generator for the booster station until the work at the booster station is completed.*

RECAP: Effluent Filter Backwash Pump – A proposal was previously obtained from Slaymaker in the amount of \$11,347.91 for replacement of the effluent filter backwash pump to include a new flooded suction pump. The purchase was authorized (but not yet made), and the pump will be delivered to the site but not yet installed.

#### Act 537 Planning

RECAP: the Alternatives Analysis was awarded to Barry Isett. A kick-off meeting was held this past month to review the information needs, the history of the project, etc. This work is expected to begin once the Door-to-Door Survey is completed.

UPDATE: Sewer Needs Door-to-Door Survey: this work was awarded to AM Septic. This work began in March and is currently about 50% completed; results have been obtained for 70 inspections for now, and a payment application was recently submitted to the Authority by AM Septic.

#### PENNVEST Funding Application

UPDATE: The final settlement meeting with PENNVEST was held on May 2nd.

The Authority must set up an ACH account for pay request disbursements and complete the ACH form, as well as obtain a Bank Account Verification Letter, voided check, and signature card for each authorized signatory.

These documents must then be provided to PENNVEST. The Authority can then meet with the PENNVEST Finance team to discuss the disbursement and financial statement submittal process. Our understanding is that the Authority is moving forward with setting up the ACH account and obtaining the noted documentation; please provide us with available dates to schedule a conference call with the PENNVEST Finance team.

#### 2023 LSA Grant Application

RECAP: A quote was obtained for the purchase of new MXUs, and radio read system from LB Water in the amount of \$257,967.39. Kentrel was contacted in order to provide the installation work under a Co-Stars Contract. The total cost for this system, with installation and 5% Grant Contingency, is \$350,708.81.

RECAP: In addition to the radio read metering equipment, we also obtained a quote for the leak detection system recommended by LB Water. The total cost for this project, including the radio read system and leak detection, with 5% Grant Contingency, is \$418,750.91. LB had their vendor perform the demonstration the week of December 5th in order to determine what the actual needs are for the leak detection system. For now, a budgetary cost has been included in the Grant application to include the purchase of this system. The LSA Grant Application was submitted to the CFA by the November 30th deadline. At this time, it is unknown when the CFA will be announcing grant awards.

UPDATE: There is a CFA Board Meeting on May 21st, which SSM will be attending virtually to obtain any updates on the grant application.

*Jamie Lorah (SSM) said they did not award the statewide grants, but they expect to award them at the September meeting.*

Jamie Lorah (SSM) said a lead service main inventory must be done and that report is due in October. Jamie said SSM can do that for the Authority, and she will get a proposal together. Jamie said she does have a GIS (Geographic Information System) model of Plum Creek's system because of the Act 537 planning but it does not have the water mains. It just has the parcels, and it shows where there are holding tanks and septic tanks, but it has not been updated since 2022. Mike Flynn asked what it would cost PCMA for SSM to update their GIS model to include whatever data we have on the mains, etc. Jamie said she will get a proposal for the next month's meeting.

The Board reviewed the letter received from the owner at 668 Wynonah Drive requesting a credit of \$422.29 for installing a whole house filter due to iron and manganese. Jamie Lorah (SSM) said you are already sequestering with Klenphos. Jamie said it is an aesthetic issue and it is a secondary contaminant. DEP has goals that they want you to be able to meet but there are no health effects expected from iron and manganese. It is very prevalent in Schuylkill County and throughout all these coal regions and is naturally occurring. The Board is looking into other treatments for the iron and manganese. The Board determined that they cannot give a credit. Nancy (office) will send a letter to the owner.

David Mengel asked what controls the pressure at his house because the last couple of months and it is not every day but when he first turns the shower on it is extreme pressure (way more than normal) and a few minutes into the shower he hears a thud, and it goes back to normal pressure.

Mike Flynn asked if he has an expansion tank attached to his hot water heater because if he doesn't it might be the pipes that are getting pressurized by the hot water heater. David said yes, he does. Jamie Lorah (SSM) asked David when the last time was he changed the filter on his iron and manganese treatment system. David said he changed it in November. Jamie said it could be the pressure changes in the system based on usage. Also, it is dependent on the levels of the tanks, the level of usage you have from your neighbors, dependent on your system/plumbing, and your water service line. It could be so many things. David said it is only happening in his shower. Jamie said it sounds like it is something in your plumbing.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the 2023 Audit Report prepared by Jones & Co. No irregularities were found during the audit.

Upon motion by Jim Ridderhoff, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board suspended the regular meeting at 7:26 p.m. and convened in Executive Session to discuss litigation for 200 Hatchet Cove.

Upon motion by Mike Flynn, seconded by Ryan Achenbach, and carried by all, the Board reconvened at 8:11 p.m. in regular session. The Board discussed 200 Hatchet Cove and to proceed with further investigation.

There being no further business, Jerry Weiss motioned for adjournment, Mike Flynn seconded the motion, carried by all. Jim Ridderhoff adjourned the meeting at 8:12 p.m.

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