

## **REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

### **May 18, 2020**

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The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:01 p.m. on Monday, May 18, 2020, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. The meeting was held via video and audio advanced communication technology ("ACT"), using the ZOOM internet application, due to the national COVID-19 pandemic emergency. Each Board member and other attendees of the meeting were able to hear each other attendee, and be heard by each other attendee. The public could also participate in the meeting via ACT, using the ZOOM internet application. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Chairman Brian Nagle, Ted Lyons, Jeff Morgan, Linda Rosenfeld, Richard Bohner, Amir Famili, and Kevin Baker were present through ACT for the duration of the meeting. Board members Norma Cusick and Scott Bieber joined the meeting while it was in progress.

Solicitor Michael Gaul was also present via ACT. Authority Staff present via ACT were Liesel Gross, Ed Klein, Chuck Volk, John Parsons, Lisa Miller, Chris Moughan, Andrew Moore, Phil DePoe, Susan Sampson, and Todd Marion.

#### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Liesel Gross stated there are no changes to the agenda. The Emergency Declaration memorandum was sent to the Board separately last week and was also posted to the Authority's website. There will be an Executive Session after the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None. Minutes will be approved at the first meeting in June.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS**

Norma Cusick entered the meeting via ACT at 12:06 p.m.

#### **Emergency Declaration – 36" Water Main Break at S. 17<sup>th</sup> & Walnut Streets**

John Parsons reviewed the 36-inch water main break that occurred on April 29, 2020 at 17<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets in Allentown. He asked for approval of the Emergency Declaration because the costs of repair were in excess of \$50,000.00 and regular Authority purchasing requirements for materials and contractor services could not be followed during this event, in order to ensure a timely response to the emergency. Staff from the Distribution and Collection Department and the Water Filtration Plant isolated the leak within 90 minutes of the break. Mr. Parsons noted that the costs for final paving were shared with UGI because they had the opportunity to replace a 4-inch gas line prior to the roadway being restored. Since this same line experienced a cracked bell approximately 1300 feet north of this site in February 2020, the damaged pieces of the pipe were sent to US Pipe for analysis. The report is expected within a few weeks. There was some Board discussion. Linda Rosenfeld asked if this Emergency Declaration covers any damage to neighboring homes considering the amount of water that was leaked. Liesel Gross stated that the Emergency Declaration does not cover the expense of repairing any private property damage. Ted Lyons asked

how the line was isolated. John Parsons explained that several valves were closed that lead into the line and pumps that supply water to this line at the water filtration plant were shut down. Linda Rosenfeld commented that her home is served by this water line and she only experienced reduced water pressure for a period of about 30 minutes. Chairman Nagle commended the Staff and crews for their work to repair the line and acknowledged all the contributions and efforts for a job well done. Liesel Gross noted several departments that responded quickly and with excellent teamwork to support a unified response to this emergency.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the Emergency Declaration for a total of \$125,112.00 (8-0).

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Ed Klein noted that the April 2020 financial report will be provided at a later date.

### **MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

John Parsons gave an overview of the April 2020 report. Jeff Morgan asked about the class of ductile iron pipe used for the water line at 17<sup>th</sup> and Walnut Streets. Mr. Parsons said the 36-inch water main is a Class 50 ductile iron pipe, which is a concern due to the reduced thickness of the pipe wall. Typical installation by current standards would require a Class 52 pipe material to be used; however, more information will be provided in the report from US Pipe regarding the condition of the pipe. Richard Bohner asked if the incidents of foreign materials being flushed into the sewer system has gotten better since the Authority's last discussion on this matter. Mr. Parsons said the incidents of sewer backups has been reduced, which may be attributed to good communication with the public about what not to flush down the toilet, as well as return to more normal supply of toilet paper in the local stores.

Jennifer McKenna, Office of Compliance City of Allentown, commented that the water main break that occurred was the topic of discussion at a recent compliance meeting and the City was inquiring about similar topics as those discussed during this Authority meeting. She noted that the Class 50 pipe that was used in the 1983 installation of this water line was acceptable for use at the time by then-current standards.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

Liesel Gross reported that there will be another Emergency Declaration coming next month regarding the main break at 17<sup>th</sup> and Sumner streets in Allentown to a 12-inch spun-cast iron line. The repair has been made but there is significant road work that will need to be done. Ms. Gross also noted that the Authority is working to notify the public regarding the importance of flushing the interior plumbing of commercial properties that have been shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Flushing the interior plumbing is required to bring freshwater into those buildings and remove any stagnant water that may be left in the pipes after a long period of no usage. Linda Rosenfeld asked if the decontamination services are aware of this water system flushing requirement. Ms. Gross noted that there are many cleaning companies offering services to help business prepare to reopen, and it would be a good idea to notify them as well.

### **SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS**

Solicitor Gaul asked for confirmation of the motion made regarding the Emergency Declaration. Chairman Nagle asked for a vote to approve the Emergency Declaration, based on the motion made earlier in the meeting. The Board approved the Emergency Declaration (9-0).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chairman Nagle announced that an Executive Session will be held after the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

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Richard Bohner  
Secretary