

## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 24, 2023

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority Board of Directors was called to order at 12:02 p.m. on Monday, July 24, 2023, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. The meeting was hybrid via in-person and video and audio advanced communication technology (“ACT”), using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. 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 in-person or via ACT, using the Zoom internet application, including telephone option. A Roll Call of Board members present was taken. Brian Nagle, Amir Famili, Linda Rosenfeld, Norma Cusick, and Sean Ziller were present for Roll Call, and remained for the duration of the meeting. Kevin Baker entered the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

Attorney Rich Campbell of KingSpry, the Authority’s Solicitor, was present along with Authority Staff, Ed Klein, Chris Moughan, Andrew Moore, Albert Capuzzi, Phil DePoe, Susan Sampson, and Lisa Miller.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board received their electronic and hard copies of the Board packet in advance and asked if anyone did not receive their copy of the packet. A copy of the packet is also available online.

### **REVIEW OF AGENDA**

Ed Klein announced that there are no changes or additions to the agenda, and no Executive Sessions planned.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **July 10, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

On a motion by Amir Famili, seconded Sean Ziller, the Board approved the minutes of the July 10, 2023, Board meeting as written (5-0).

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

#### **Resolution No. 7-2023-1: Approval of Suburban Water Division & Suburban Wastewater Division Tapping Fees**

David Busch from Keystone Alliance Consulting, who prepared the fee calculation documents, was present and reviewed the report that was submitted to the Board with the Resolution. Ed Klein commented that the process is identical to what has been done in the past and in accordance with state statute.

On a motion by Linda Rosenfeld, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved Resolution No. 7-2023-1 that establishes the Suburban Water Division and Suburban Wastewater Division Tapping Fees (5-0).

#### **Water Filtration Plant: PFAS Compliance Study**

AJ Capuzzi gave an overview of the project to conduct a study to evaluate which approaches to polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) compliance will most likely achieve the Authority’s goals for water quality at a reasonable cost. As a result of the US Environmental Protection Agency proposing new regulatory limits of PFAS in drinking water, four water sources that supply the Allentown Division

water filtration plant need to be evaluated and treatment options and solutions investigated. There was Board discussion on sample collection and available testing data. Hazen & Sawyer offered an approach to conducting the study using artificial intelligence to evaluate a variety of water treatment and blending scenarios. Mr. Capuzzi explained this approach will allow for multiple different water qualities and treatment options to be studied simultaneously at a lower overall cost.

Chairman Nagle commented on the variation of consultant bids that were received. Mr. Capuzzi stated the breadth of cost proposals is due to the inclusion of alternative study methods. Hazen & Sawyer is the only firm that proposed the artificial intelligence method. The firm is well qualified to conduct the study that the Authority requires and has completed numerous related work for other utilities across the nation. There was additional discussion about the use of artificial intelligence for this kind of study. Mr. Capuzzi explained that this method has been reviewed by the Water Research Foundation and found to be effective.

Chairman Nagle inquired with Attorney Rich Campbell regarding the need to request updated bids from other firms to ensure a common approach within the proposals. Attorney Campbell explained that this authorization is for a professional service, which allows the Authority to use its discretion in selecting the consultant based on qualifications.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved the Professional Services Authorization to Hazen & Sawyer in the amount of \$97,778.00 (5-0). Kevin Baker abstained.

### **Sand Spring WWTP: Treatment Process Modification**

AJ Capuzzi provided an overview of the project for plant modifications to the Sand Spring Wastewater Treatment Plant to intensify the treatment process and allow for enhanced plant performance without expanding the footprint of the facility. Mr. Capuzzi introduced Jim McQuarrie from Tetra Tech, the engineering firm recommended for approval to complete this work. Tetra Tech recommends using an integrated fixed film activated sludge (IFAS) approach to enhance nitrification. This process involves adding a high-density polyethylene media to permit biological growth. These plant modifications have been studied and are expected to improve plant performance.

There was some Board discussion regarding the effectiveness of IFAS. Mr. McQuarrie commented that this process is well proven and there are many installations globally. However, the technology has not been used in a sequencing batch reactor (SBR) plant, which is the type of technology in use at the Sand Spring WWTP. Therefore, the project has been set up as a full-scale "demonstration" to ensure the effectiveness of IFAS in an SBR plant. In response to emailed questions submitted by Board member Jeff Morgan, who was not in attendance at today's meeting, Mr. Capuzzi stated that the project will include modeling, design, procurement of the media, and the monitoring of the process. Tetra Tech will be managing all the engineering work required to complete the project. The balance of the project will include authorization to purchase the IFAS media and complete some minor plant upgrades, totaling approximately \$130,000. If the demonstration is successful, the installation will remain in place, and a much larger plant upgrade or expansion could potentially be avoided.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Sean Ziller, the Board approved the Capital Project Authorization for Design & Construction Phase Engineering Services in the amount of \$192,981.00 which includes the Professional Services Authorization to Tetra Tech Inc. in the amount of \$172,981.00 (6-0).

### **MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW**

Ed Klein gave an overview of the June 2023 financial statements, highlighting variances between actual expenses and budgeted or forecasted expenses. Mr. Klein reported that all three funds are better than forecast.

### **MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW**

Andrew Moore reviewed the June 2023 Operations report and noted highlights as outlined in the report.

There was some additional Board discussion about safety metrics including how non-recordable incidents and near misses are captured.

### **STAFF COMMENTS**

None.

### **SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS**

None.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS**

None.

### **BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

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Linda A. Rosenfeld  
Secretary