

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

June 24, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2019, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Jeff Morgan, and Richard Bohner. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Brad Landon, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, Susan Sampson, Todd Marion, and Lisa Miller.

Chairman Nagle announced that today's Board meeting is being videotaped and streaming live and recordings will be posted to the Authority's website.

Chairman Nagle announced that the Board has received their packets prior to the meeting. There are no action items on the agenda and since there is no quorum, the Minutes cannot be approved at this time and only discussion items will be discussed.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross noted there are two brief items for discussion to be added to the agenda. One is regarding employee benefits and the other is regarding a source water protection issue. There will be an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation and personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jennifer McKenna, City of Allentown, Office of Compliance introduced Brian Wehbey who is a summer intern for the Office of Compliance and will be working on a document archivist project for the City. The Board welcomed him.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Authority Benefits Review (new agenda item)

Liesel Gross informed the Board that the Authority staff is in the process of selecting a broker for health insurance and other employee benefits. The Authority will be taking an open approach to address rising cost of insurance and will have the broker look at what the Authority is offering and make any recommendations for improvements to reduce costs or expand options for employees. Employee input will be sought through this process as well to ensure new insurance programs that may be considered will meet employee needs.

Norma Cusick arrived at 12:04 p.m. giving the Board a quorum.

Chairman Nagle asked how this would affect the union workers. Ms. Gross explained that the SMART union contract is up at the end of the year and the benefit options will be part of the negotiations.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 10, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the minutes of June 10, 2019 meeting (5-0).

Schantz Spring Source Water Protection (new agenda item)

Chuck Volk gave an overview of a potential project that was described in The Morning Call regarding a proposed development plan to be submitted to Lower Macungie Township by Green Acres Landscaping. The location of the proposed development is near Schantz Spring, which is one of the Authority's primary drinking water sources. The Authority has concerns that a portion of the property is in the spring's Source Water Protection Zone 2. The Source Water Protection Zone 2 is defined by the movement of groundwater according to the hydrogeological study completed by Spotts Stevens and McCoy in 2011. Mr. Volk said there is also a fuel oil fill station proposed on this site as part of the plan. Liesel Gross noted that the Authority's hydrogeologist will provide a study after reviewing the proposed plan, and no specific comments will be provided to the township at this time until the study is complete.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REVIEW

Ed Klein presented the May 2019 financial report with a PowerPoint presentation, highlighting variances between budgeted expenses and actual or forecasted expenses.

MONTHLY SYSTEM OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

John Parsons reviewed the Monthly System Operations Overview report for May 2019 which included a status report of the Western Lehigh Interceptor High Flow Emergency Project as of June 10, 2019. Norma Cusick questioned the high daily average of 47.46 at Kline's Island Wastewater Treatment Plant. Mr. Parsons stated the high flows are due to the 9.1 inches of rain that occurred during the month of May. There was some discussion regarding the repairs and upgrades portion of the report.

Jennifer McKenna, City of Allentown Office of Compliance, asked what is contributing to the 7.76 million gallons per day flows at the Pretreatment Plant in Fogelsville. Chuck Volk confirmed the higher flows are primarily due to the high level of rain during the month of May, and excess inflow and infiltration that is under investigation within the municipal systems. Ms. McKenna asked for confirmation that the high flows are not derived from increased production from industrial customers, to which Mr. Volk agreed.

Mr. Parsons stated that Phase I of the Western Lehigh Interceptor High Flow Emergency Project has been completed. The weather has caused many delays with this project. Phase 2 is expected to be started in two weeks and Phase 3 is expected to begin in a month. Liesel Gross noted that the project is being funded through the capital budget which will be reviewed and discussed at an upcoming meeting in July.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

None.

Chairman Nagle called a recess at 12:33 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 12:40 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and personnel.

The Executive Session ended at 1:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary