

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 8, 2019

The Regular Meeting of the Lehigh County Authority was called to order at 12:00 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2019, Chairman Brian Nagle presiding. Other Members present at the commencement of the meeting were: Linda Rosenfeld, Kevin Baker, Jeff Morgan, Richard Bohner, Norma Cusick, and Amir Famili. Authority Staff present were Liesel Gross, Brad Landon, Ed Klein, Pat Mandes, John Parsons, Chris Moughan, 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.

Scott Bieber arrived at 12:01 p.m.

Chairman Nagle introduced the newest member to the Board of Directors, Amir Famili. The Board and Staff introduced themselves and Mr. Famili gave an overview of his background.

Ted Lyons called in to the meeting at 12:04 p.m. and was on the phone for the duration of the meeting.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Liesel Gross noted there is an additional item to the agenda under Water regarding an Emergency Declaration for the Board's consideration. There will also be an Executive Session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss matters of potential litigation. Ms. Gross welcomed Amir on behalf of the Staff and announced that a tour of the plants will be made available to him and any Board members who would also like to attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 24, 2019 Regular Meeting Minutes

Liesel Gross noted that it was brought to her attention that the minutes omitted comments made by Jennifer McKenna from the City of Allentown Office of Compliance regarding the May 2019 Monthly System Operations overview report. Ms. Gross said that the minutes will be amended to include those comments upon review of the meeting recording. On a motion by Richard Bohner, seconded by Norma Cusick, the Board approved the minutes of June 24, 2019 meeting as amended (6-0). Ted Lyons and Scott Bieber abstained.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

Budget Amendment Request – WLI Emergency Project

Ed Klein gave an overview of the budget amendment request for the Western Lehigh Interceptor (WLI) emergency project. The request is for the costs of exploring and remediating leakage found in the interceptor following repeated sanitary sewer overflows due to the excess rainfall that began in 2018. The forecasted cost to complete the work scope is \$2,211,510.00, which was not included in the 2019 budget because the budget was approved prior to the emergency declaration in November

2018. Through May 2019, \$421,510.00 has been expended on the work. The Board asked Mr. Parsons to clarify what type of remediation has been required thus far following investigation and inspection of the interceptor. Mr. Parsons stated the work is primarily focused on sealing joint leaks. Chairman Nagle questioned if there are contingency fees built in to the project. Mr. Klein explained how contingency fees are built into the forecasted figures for the project. Scott Bieber asked Mr. Parsons for an overview of the work in Phases 2, 3, and 4 which Mr. Parsons provided. Mr. Bieber also questioned how the signatories will be paying for the work. Liesel Gross explained that the project area captures flows from all the WLI signatories and the exact reimbursement mechanism is still being reviewed and will be discussed at a meeting with the signatories sometime in August.

On a motion made by Norma Cusick, seconded by Linda Rosenfeld, the Board approved an amendment to the 2019 Suburban Wastewater Division Capital Budget in the amount of \$2,211,510.00 (8-0).

Emergency Declaration – 30-Inch Steel Transmission Water Main Repair

Liesel Gross distributed a memorandum regarding the emergency for a 30-inch steel transmission water main repair in the Allentown Division, which will exceed the staff approval threshold of \$50,000 and requires Board approval. John Parsons explained that while attempting to repair the leak, a broken interconnecting valve was discovered. In order to make the repair, the 30-inch line must be shut down and two taps will also be installed. Liesel Gross explained there are two main reasons why this is an emergency. First, the transmission line serves the entire east side of Allentown and fills a 10 million gallon reservoir and is, therefore, a critical asset that must remain in service. Secondly, Mosser Elementary School is served by this water line and the repair will involve roadways surrounding the school, so the project needs to be completed prior to the start of school in late August. To complete this critical work on a timely basis, the staff declared an emergency to allow procurement of materials and securing the services of a contractor on a timely basis.

On a motion by Norma Cusick, seconded by Jeff Morgan, the Board approved the Emergency Declaration retroactively to June 27, 2019 for repair of the 30-inch steel transmission water main and interconnecting valve (8-0).

MONTHLY PROJECT UPDATES / INFORMATION ITEMS

Ms. Gross highlighted two items under Finance and Administration for the meeting on July 22, 2019, Suburban Division Water & Wastewater Tapping Fees and LCA 2020 Goals – 2019 Action Plan Mid-Year Update.

Linda Rosenfeld asked for an update on the Hamilton Street bridge project. Chuck Volk said that the Authority's water main relocation portion of the project is complete but he is unsure of the completion date of the entire project. The Authority has submitted final paperwork for reimbursement.

STAFF COMMENTS

None.

SOLICITOR'S COMMENTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS / OTHER COMMENTS

Linda Rosenfeld asked that Jennifer McKenna, a frequent guest to the Authority Board meetings, introduce herself to Mr. Famili. Ms. McKenna introduced herself and welcomed Mr. Famili to the Board.

Chairman Nagle called a recess at 12:31 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An Executive Session was held at 12:37 p.m. to discuss potential litigation.

The Executive Session ended at 1:07 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:07 p.m.

Richard H. Bohner
Secretary