

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Tuesday, January 9, 2007, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sinking Spring Borough Hall, by Mr. Francis Butkus. The following Authority members were present:

Francis Butkus  
Shawn Schwartz  
Paul Roth (absent)  
Richard Biggs (absent)  
Dennis Leiby

Others present were: Mr. Alex Morrison, ARRO Consulting, Municipal Authority Engineer; Mr. John A. Hoffert Jr., Authority Solicitor; and Ms. Elizabeth White, Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings. Council Representatives included; Mr. George Butkus and Mrs. Barbara Kutz.

#### **REORGANIZATION:**

Mr. Butkus asked for a motion for Chairman. Mr. Schwartz made the motion to keep Mr. Butkus as Chairman; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus asked for a motion for Vice-Chairman. Mr. Schwartz made the motion for Mr. Roth to be Vice-Chairman; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus made a motion to keep Mr. Hoffert as Solicitor, ARRO Consulting as Engineer, Reinsel as Auditor and Mrs. White as Secretary/Treasurer; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

#### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

Mr. Butkus asked if everyone had a chance to look over last months meeting minutes and if there were any errors or corrections. Hearing none he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Motion was made by Mr. Schwartz; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

#### **ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Mr. Morrison presented the Engineers Report dated January 9, 2007. Copy attached.

#### **Sewer System Televising Project:**

Mr. Morrison stated that ADS has reportedly completed their project and that they did do some night-time work which generated some complaints. He stated that due to the large amount of debris in the sewer line along Reedy Road it took much longer then they had anticipated. He stated that ARRO along with Miller Environmental addressed the complaints.

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that Miller Environmental is still going to check on the missing bolts.

Mr. Morrison stated that ADS, with out asking or informing anyone, plugged the line to do some televising. He stated that when they pulled the plugs a large amount of flow went down to the sewer plant and pushed the sludge from the final clarifier to the chlorine tank. He stated that there was no discharge to the creek so there was no problem with that but mentioned that it did create some extra work for the staff at the sewer plant. Mr. Morrison mentioned that a letter was sent to ADS informing them that if there are any additional charges from Miller Environmental due to their actions the Authority will consider charging that against their contract.

Mr. Morrison mentioned that ADS did submit a pay application which is currently under review.

**Mountain Home Road Sanitary System Additions Project:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that they are still working on the right-of-way agreements. He stated that there are two (2) here tonight for execution by the Authority. He mentioned that a revised agreement has been sent to Mr. Guitieri and that we are still waiting for the Lincoln Plumbing agreement to be returned.

**Hydraulic Model:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that the Hydraulic Model Draft Report was submitted at the last meeting and stated that if there are any questions we could go over it. He also mentioned that we should still have a workshop meeting with some of the Authority members that are familiar with the sewer system and also the operations staff from Miller Environmental to go over it.

**Garage Masonry:**

Mr. Morrison stated that this is a Borough issue and has been referred to their sewer committee to make a final decision.

**Letters:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that ARRO received a letter from ADS regarding a time extension. He stated that it is his recommendation that the Authority grant the time extension and that he has four (4) copies of the change order extending the time for the Authority's signature if they agree. Mr. Leiby made a motion to grant the time extension and sign the change order; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)**

Mr. Morrison stated that there is also a letter from EIMCO regarding the gear boxes for the EIMCO equipment. He stated that EIMCO is reporting that it is proprietary. Mr. Morrison mentioned that he talked to Mr. Hoffert and that he will review the letter and provide an opinion as to whether he concurs that it is proprietary.

Mr. Morrison stated that if it is proprietary then we would do it by purchase order and we would not have to go out for bid. Mr. Hoffert stated that the Authority would save about \$30,000.00 if we do not have to go out for bid.

**MR. JOHN HOFFERT - SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Hoffert asked Mr. Morrison if Mr. Schneck had contacted him. He stated that Mr. Schneck would like to hook up to the sewer and is willing to do it all at his cost. Mr. Morrison stated that someone did call and that he wants to have one of his men go out there and walk the site. Mr. Morrison stated that there will be a line some what near there when we finish the Mt. Home Road Project.

Mr. Butkus stated that there is one of two ways that he could gain access to a line. He would either have to come down along Fritztown Road and tie into the lower manhole on the North side of Columbia Avenue or he would have to gain right-of-way across the Carpet Warehouse property and come out at the out grown shop on Mt. Home Road.

Mr. Morrison stated that Mr. Schneck could possibly put in a low pressure line and run a small diameter line over to our system. He mentioned thought that if DEP would not allow that to remain a private line we would not want to take responsibility for that long low pressure small diameter force main. He stated that if Mr. Schneck wants to approach DEP and ask if they will allow it and they say yes then it would be fine. He stated that if DEP will not allow it then Mr. Schneck would have to put in a conventional system which would be an eight inch line with manholes like you would normally see.

Mr. Butkus stated that he could see that as being a gravity line instead of a force main. Mr. Morrison stated that it could probably be a gravity line and that he will have one of his guys walk the site. Mr. Schwartz asked if that would go through Carpet Warehouse. Mr. Butkus stated yes and mentioned that it would be an advantage to Carpet Warehouse because they are not connected to sewer either. Mr. Morrison stated that if the line would be deeded over to the Authority then we could allow others to connect to it. He mentioned that there would probably need to be an agreement that if Mr. Schneck paid for it him self that if anyone else would want to come into that line that they would have to contribute to the costs.

**MR. JOHN HOFFERT - SOLICITOR: (Cont)**

Mr. Hoffert stated that if engineering wise it is feasible and DEP has no issues then we can tell him that these are his options. Mr. Butkus asked who would approach DEP. Mr. Morrison stated that Mr. Schneck should get his own engineer and do the design and then we would look at it.

Discussion ensued concerning others on Columbia Avenue that may want to connect.

Mr. Butkus asked Mr. Hoffert if he would have an opinion on the EIMCO stuff for next month. Mr. Hoffert stated that he would have an opinion by tomorrow. Mr. Morrison stated that Mr. Hoffert will send him a letter, and mentioned that we had approval to proceed with the procurement documents so he will have them prepare a purchase order for the next meeting. He stated that the Authority can act on the purchase order in lieu of writing specs and bidding.

Mr. Hoffert stated that upon the request of the Authority, he sent a letter to Mr. Fitzpatrick advising him of the requirements of the Maintenance Reserve Fund. He stated that he has not heard from Mr. Fitzpatrick. Mr. Butkus mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. Fitzpatrick last Thursday night at the Council meeting and that Mr. Fitzpatrick stated that he was going to call Mr. Hoffert on Friday. Mrs. Barbara Kutz stated that she received a copy of a letter from Mr. Fitzpatrick by e-mail today that was addressed to Mr. Hoffert. Mr. Hoffert stated that he has not received it as of yet. Mrs. Kutz showed the e-mail to Mr. Hoffert. Mr. Hoffert noted that it was a draft copy and stated that maybe Mr. Fitzpatrick wanted someone to review it before he sent it to him and gave the copy back to Mrs. Kutz. Mr. Hoffert stated that as soon as he receives the letter he will review it and get back to the Authority.

Mr. Hoffert mentioned that, as was discussed earlier, he sent out the updated right-of-way agreement and that we have two back for the Authority to execute tonight. He stated that as soon as he gets the other two in he will send them to Ms. White. He mentioned that the Authority may want to authorize the Chairman and Secretary to execute them as soon as they come in instead of waiting until the next meeting. Mr. Butkus made the motion; seconded by Mr. Leiby to approve the Chairman and Secretary to execute the agreements when they come in. Motion carried.

**FRANCIS BUTKUS - CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Butkus mentioned that at last months meeting we discussed possibly adding another clarifier at the treatment plant. Mr. Morrison stated that it will be part of the study. Mr. Butkus asked how long the study will take. Mr. Morrison stated that it will take at least until the next meeting and possibly the next. He stated that Mr. Ritter, who helped with the previous two studies, is helping with this one.

**FRANCIS BUTKUS - CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Butkus asked Mr. Morrison if he and Mr. Schlott Jr. were working on the wish list together of what we really need at the plant and what would be nice to have. Mr. Morrison stated that Mr. Schlott is working on some of the maintenance things that might be added to it. He stated that we already know and can get started on the big items like the screenings, solids handling, and the extra clarifier. He mentioned that some of the other stuff the Borough is still working on. He stated that they will do the study and bring it all back and lay it out to show what can be added and prioritize things.

Mr. Butkus asked if the plant had expanded to another 1 mgd, would the chlorine tank have been enlarged or would it have been of sufficient capacity to handle things. Mr. Morrison stated that if we made the plant much bigger we were looking into going to UV, so the tank would have been big enough to add UV but it would not have been big enough to provide the contact time needed to stay a chlorine contact tank. He stated that you could fit the UV light bulbs in it and get the disinfection you needed but you would have had to expand it if you wanted to stay with chlorine. Mr. Morrison stated that the UV is very expensive and he would not do it under this minor upgrade if we are only trying to get 100,000 or 200,000 gpd. He stated that the premise they are doing the process on is based on what can we get in additional capacity with out adding another ditch. He stated that since we are going it more or less alone and we don't have any big players we didn't want to add another ditch and go to that big expense until somebody steps up. He stated that we can revisit it if somebody comes in and says that they want another 500,000 gpd because that would change the whole story.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that our capacity at the plant is about all spoken for and we don't have much free board. He mentioned that we have 75,000 gpd capacity in Springs plant that we can use if we have to. He mentioned the application from the school district for 35,000 gpd and that in his opinion, at this time, we could not and should not entertain that idea because we do not have the room. He stated that any expansion would be in 500,000 gpd increments and asked Mr. Morrison if that was correct. Mr. Morrison stated that if we were to expand the plant significantly it would be in 500,000 gpd increments. He stated that we basically have two oxidation ditches which have a capacity of 500,000 gpd and that gives you 24 hour a day hydraulic retention time so if you add one more ditch it would basically be 500,000 gpd. He stated that what we are talking about right now is a re-rate with a minor expansion to see what we can press out of the existing ditches and see if we can't get a little above 1 mgd. He stated that there is not guarantee that we can get anything above it but we are going to go through the study and revisit with EIMCO. Mr. Morrison stated that he is confident that we can get some but we have to get that information to EIMCO which is the manufacturer.

**FRANCIS BUTKUS - CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Butkus stated that at this time we could not in good conscience approve the request from the school district. Mr. Morrison stated not with out going through the study. He also mentioned that they would probably have to participate in this little expansion, because we are still going to build something. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Leiby asked if we ever sent the letter to Lower Heidelberg stating that we got the letter from the school district requesting capacity. Mr. Hoffert stated that it may have slipped through the cracks and stated that he would check on it tomorrow and if it was not sent out he would send it out right a way. Mr. Leiby asked Mrs. Reifsnnyder, a representative from Lower Heidelberg that was in the audience, if they had received a letter. She stated that she did not know and that she would have to check with Mr. Scull

Mr. Hoffert asked Mrs. Reifsnnyder who their new solicitor was. She stated that it was Mr. Christopher Hartman of Hartman Hartman Howell.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Mr. Butkus stated that we have four bills from ARRO Consulting totaling \$5,211.65. Motion was made by Mr. Schwartz to pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that the bills from ARRO in regards to the Paolo Brutto Subdivision should be reimbursable. Mrs. White stated that she would bill Mr. Brutto for those amounts.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have one bill from Mr. Hoffert for January '07' services for \$250.00. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill for \$290.00 from Ms. White for services rendered for December 2006. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Butkus. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Butkus asked if everyone had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated January 9, 2007 and if anyone had any questions. Hearing none he read the Treasurer's Report and asked for a motion to accept. Motion was made by Mr. Schwartz to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Butkus asked if there was anything else for the good of the order.

Mr. Leiby asked if we should send a letter out to the contributing municipalities letting them know that our sewer plant got an efficiency award for the region and have the potential of winning the state. He stated that DEP would like to use Mr. Hillibush's SOP manual as a model.

Mr. Schwartz made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mr. Roth. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elizabeth White  
Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer