

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Tuesday, May 8, 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  
Richard Biggs (absent)  
Dennis Leiby

Others present were: Mr. Alex Morrison, ARRO Consulting, Municipal Authority Engineer; Mr. John A. Hoffert Jr., Authority Solicitor who arrived at 7:55 due to a meeting; and Ms. Elizabeth White, Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer, who recorded the minutes of the proceedings. Council Representatives included; Mrs. Barbara Katz and Mr. George Butkus.

### **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. Roth; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

### **ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Mr. Morrison presented the Engineers Report dated May 8, 2007. Copy attached.

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

Mr. Morrison stated that Mr. Ritter has started reviewing the tapes and that he is about 75% of the way through them. He also mentioned that there are some administrative issues regarding the consent of assignment agreement that ADS was required to give us when they took over Severn Trent. He stated that he believes that it did come in today and that Mr. Hoffert would report on it when he gets here.

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

Mr. Morrison mentioned that APR Supply Company has been unresponsive to requests to execute the right-of-way agreement. This is a correction from last month. Last meeting it was reported that it was received but it has not been received as of yet. Mr. Morrison stated that once we receive it we will go ahead with the bidding of that project. Mr. Leiby asked if we could out for bid with out their permission. Mr. Morrison stated that we would not want to do that because if you accept a bid you should execute the contract within sixty days of accepting the bid and you may not be able to that if APR does not sign the right-of-way agreement.

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)****Upgrade and Minor Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion:**

Mr. Morrison stated that the Authority should probably discuss it to see where we are at and where we want to go. He stated that ARRO had presented the analysis to the Authority and the Borough. He mentioned that since the Borough has tabled dissolving the Authority the Authority should make a decision about what they want to do. Mr. Butkus asked that Mr. Morrison finish his report and that we would discuss it then.

**Chapter 94 Report:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that the Waste Water Treatment Plant is under a projected hydraulic overload and in an organic overload. He stated that part of a corrective action plan, if required by DEP, would be to show them what we have done to reduce the flows and keep the organics under control. He stated that the upgrade and minor expansion would be part of that plan. He also mentioned that we are waiting for DEP to review the Chapter 94 Report and comment on it. He stated that we could take a proactive approach and call them and ask for a meeting and say to discuss it.

**AIMCO Equipment:**

Mr. Morrison stated that the drive for the clarifier is on site and that the aerator reducer is scheduled to be shipped on October 5, 2007.

**Letters:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that there were two letters that were sent out this month, both regarding the Chapter 94 Report. He stated that a letter was sent to Mr. Hoffert and also to Lower Heidelberg Township. He mentioned that Lower Heidelberg had requested a few copies of the report so they sent a letter along with them.

**DISCUSSION ON UPGRADE:**

Mr. Morrison stated that the project, as recommended, basically consisted of new screenings at the head work, possible modification of the raw sewage pumps, a new final clarifier and modification to the solids handling system to enhance the capability of what we have now. He stated that, as we reviewed in the past, the process there is a very powerful process and some of the Chapter 94 Report points to how powerful that process is in that the influent loading to the treatment plant showed it to be in an organic overload condition while at the same time it met entirely its effluent quality on half the plant. Mr. Butkus stated that we should have no problem getting it re-rated then. Mr. Morrison stated that we will start at 1.25 and maybe take it up from there. Mr. Butkus asked if that could be done. Mr. Morrison stated

**DISCUSSION ON UPGRADE: (Cont)**

that sometimes DEP will consider past performance as justification for a re-rating but mentioned that it is not done often. Mr. Butkus asked that if we were able to get the re-rating and if we were to do the screenings and pump, would this pump be able to handle another 500,000 gpd. Mr. Morrison stated that we might be able to do this pump modification with just changing the impeller size and staying with the existing pumps and maybe a motor upgrade. He stated that it would not be an entire tear out at this time if we can make it work. He stated that they have not done those calculations yet but mentioned that indications are that those pumps are capability of capacity beyond their design. He stated that Mr. Hillibush had rebuilt one of the pumps and that the capacity was enhanced by the rebuilding of that. Mr. George Butkus asked if Mr. Morrison was talking about the raw sewage pumps. Mr. Morrison stated yes. Mr. George Butkus stated that he believes that after we had two of them rebuilt there was some questions about the control system needing to be reworked because they were so efficient that they would drain down and have to wait for more sewage to come in. Mr. Morrison stated that the controls did not match the flow. He stated that as the level goes up the speed of the pump goes up and they pump more. He stated that what was happening was that the level would go up and another pump would be called on but as the level dropped the speed would not reduce on the pumps to the point that it would match the influent flow and it would suck it down and empty it and then turn off. He stated that it is inefficient and costs more in electric. He stated that it is a control issue and we will probably have to replace the controls with something that is more available because they are out dated.

Mr. Butkus asked if we should include the extra reed beds in this. Mr. Morrison stated that the reed beds are part of the solids enhancement recommendation. He stated that they have always kind of recognized that the weak link at the treatment plant was the solids handling. He stated that they have done studies before and shown that the reed beds should be enhanced even for 1 mgd. He stated that they looked at two alternatives, a reed bed system which is what we have now and compared it to a centrifuge system which is an excellent dewatering device which requires disposal of the solids.

Mr. Butkus stated that he thinks that the Authority should authorize ARRO to go ahead and develop the plans for what we need to do at the plant and that he thinks we should do it all. Mr. Morrison suggested that for the first step he should prepare over the next couple weeks a Professional Service Agreement (PSA) which will explain clearly what they will do, detail the scope, detail ARRO's costs, and detail a schedule. He stated that Mr. Hoffert should have a chance to look over it because it will be a sizable project and you don't want to just do this under miscellaneous. Mr. Butkus stated that they should do what Mr. Morrison is suggesting and keep everything above board. Mr. Leiby made a motion; seconded by Mr. Schwartz to have Mr. Morrison create a PSA for the recommended facilities at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and to have Mr. Hoffert review it before our next meeting. Motion carried.

**MR. JOHN HOFFERT - SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Hoffert reported that we finally have the agreement between ADS and the Authority and that it required Mr. Butkus's and the Secretary's signatures.

Mr. Hoffert also reported that he received a call from the attorney for APR Supply Company. He stated that their attorney wanted to know what, if anything, it is going to cost his client. Mr. Morrison stated that we are not charging any assessment but that there is a tapping fee. Mr. Hoffert mentioned that the attorney stated that if there is no assessment they would send the agreement back. Mr. Hoffert stated that he would call the attorney back tomorrow morning and let him know.

Mr. Hoffert stated that the only other thing he had to report on was the meeting that they had on Friday. He mentioned that he and Mr. Butkus met with Mr. Fitzpatrick, one or two Borough Council members, the solicitor for Township of Spring, and members of their board. He stated that they were there for about two hours and had a lengthy discussion on revisiting the lines, the interconnects, the pump station and revamping of the agreements to realistically address the direction of the flows as they should be, and the agreements they have pertaining to that. He stated that after a lot of discussion they determined that the three solicitors were going to meet and attempt to correct any and all ambiguities relative to the agreements. He mentioned that there was also some discussion about picking up some isolated connections which we would accept or they would accept depending on which line would be most accessible. He stated that overall he thinks it was a well received meeting with everybody leaving with the hope that within thirty to sixty days the solicitors meeting would take place and come up with revised agreement for presentation to all municipal bodies.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that we have three points of connection with South Heidelberg that come into our line. He stated that there is a line that comes down and crosses Penn Avenue and runs into Lower Heidelberg's line that comes to us too. He stated that he had forgotten about that one on Friday and it was not brought up at the meeting. Mr. Hoffert stated that before any agreement bears his signature it will be brought to Mr. Butkus to be checked over and to make sure that it meets his approval.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that since APR should be sending in their agreement we should go ahead and advertise for bid. Mr. Morrison mentioned that at the last meeting we had made the motion to advertise for bids but that they could do it again if they wanted. Mr. Leiby made the motion; seconded by Mr. Schwartz to advertize for bids. Motion carried

**MR. FRANCIS BUTKUS - CHAIRMAN:**

Mr. Butkus mentioned that, according to the Chapter 94 report, Lower Heidelberg had 654 residential connections and 24 commercial connections. He also stated that he had Ms. White check to see how many properties we actually bill for sewer. He stated that Ms. White found that we only billed them for 534 residential and 10 commercial connections as of the

**MR. FRANCIS BUTKUS - CHAIRMAN: (Cont)**

fourth quarter of 2006, which is a difference of 134 connections. Ms. White reported that she called Mr. Scull at Lower Heidelberg and left a message for him asking for a list of all of the properties that flow to the Borough of Sinking Spring so that she could compare it to the sewer billing system and see which properties we are missing. Mr. Leiby suggested that Ms. White or Mr. Hoffert send a letter to Lower Heidelberg stating the difference. Mr. Morrison stated that it is really a Borough issue and not an Authority issue and that they have already stated in the Chapter 94 report that there are more. He stated that it could be that the engineer is wrong and the number is less which would put us in a better position for the projected hydraulic overload and organic overload because the Chapter 94 projections would be reduced.

Mr. Hoffert mentioned that he received a call from John Moravich relative to the request of the School District for sewage capacity for the new school and what the status of the request is. Mr. Hoffert stated that he was not in a posture to know because we have not heard from Borough Council on the status of the dissolution. A visitor in the back stated that he had just come from the Zoning Hearing meeting at Lower Heidelberg Township for the school. He stated that they said that they are flowing to the Sinking Spring Waste Water Treatment plant no matter what because they are in need and they can flow to Sinking Spring even if there is no capacity available.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that according to the Chapter 94 Report our plant is full and we have no more capacity. He stated that if the school so desires to put that in our system then Lower Heidelberg would have to use their unused capacity that they have purchased by one means or another. Mr. Morrison stated that if the plant is actually full there may be a law that says that you are obliged to make it available but he also believes that the law also states that they would have to pay for it. So, if an upgrade is needed to take them it is on their dime.

Discussion ensued.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

Ms. White mentioned that we received a draft of the audit report that requires and a letter to be signed by Mr. Butkus and returned to Reinsel. Mr. Butkus signed the letter and it will be mailed on 5/9/07.

Mr. Morrison stated that we also received a letter from Lower Heidelberg's CPA requesting confirmation of allocated capacity for their audit. The letter was completed listing 234,500 as the allocated capacity and signed by Mr. Butkus and will be mailed on 5/9/07.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Mr. Butkus mentioned that we have a bill from O K Automation for \$27.56 for a lock he purchased for the storage area in the basement. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Roth. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus mentioned that we have a bill from DEP in the amount of \$50.00 for renewal for a license for a tank. Motion was made by Mr. Roth to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have three bills from ARRO Consulting totaling \$3,301.00. Motion was made by Mr. Roth to pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill from Mr. Hoffert for May '07' services for \$650.00. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Roth. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill for \$280.00 from Ms. White for services rendered for April 2007. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Roth. Motion carried.

**MR. GEORGE BUTKUS:**

Mr. George Butkus mentioned, for the Authority's information, that Borough Council has authorized ARRO Consulting to begin the process to go out for bid to sand blast and repaint the cat walk over the sludge digester on the lower side of the plant. He stated that they also authorized Mr. Hillibush to get stuff together so he can replace parts in the round clarifier as part of routine maintenance. He stated that they are still waiting for parts for the scum pump on clarifier 1 that should be delivered in about five to eight more weeks. He stated that once we receive the parts then scum pump 1 can go back on line and then they can take 2 off line.

Mr. George Butkus also mentioned that at the last Council meeting, when the issue with the Authority was discussed it was stated that regardless of whatever happens with the Authority, the report that Mr. Morrison mentioned about the upgrades and improvements to the plant, it was expressed by the president of Council that either way he agrees that these things need to happen.

Mr. George Butkus also mentioned that the Waste Water Treatment Plant did win an efficiency award across the state based on our size and the number of customers that we serve. He stated that the plant operators will be receiving an award on June 5, 2007 at a convention in State College, Pa. Mr. Francis Butkus stated that the award is the most efficiently run plant of its size in the state.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Butkus asked if everyone had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated May 8, 2007 and if anyone had any questions. Hearing none he asked for a motion to accept the Treasurers Report. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Roth. Motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

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