

The regularly scheduled monthly meeting of the Municipal Authority of the Borough of Sinking Spring was opened on Tuesday, September 11, 2007, at 7:35 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  
Dennis Leiby

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

Guests: Mr. Fred Riegel and Mr. Jim McCarthy

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

#### **GUESTS:**

Mr. Riegel stated that he and Mr. McCarthy were here on behalf of Grande Land LP. He stated that Grande owns a couple of vacant lots on South Hull Street across from Spring Valley Mill Work. Mr. McCarthy distributed copies of plans. Mr. Riegel stated that they have started the process of having the Borough consider granting a variance with respect to the zoning requirements concerning these properties. He stated that the journey took them to the Planning Commission who recommended that the variance be permitted with a couple caveats. One being that they produce a letter from Pennsylvania American Water stating that there is adequate water capacity in the area, which they have requested and are waiting for a response. The other was that they receive a ready to serve letter issued by the Municipal Authority indicating that there is capacity in the sanitary sewer system to provide service to these units. He stated that the units consist of twelve apartments and are going to be built in two, two story buildings. One building will have four units in it and the other will have eight units. He stated that these units are being built on properties that had formerly been the home of a single family home that Mr. Grande demolished and a double home that Mr. Grande also had demolished. He mentioned that sometime in the past, before Mr. Grande was involved, there was another home that existed on the parking area that is now being used by the Millwork place for its parking lot.

**GUESTS:**

Mr. Riegel stated that there are at least four family units which are no longer there that had at one time been tied in to the collection system of the Borough. He stated that the units are going to be very similar to other units that Mr. Grande has built up behind the School House. He stated that they asked Mr. Grande if he could review his records to see what kind of flow they were experiencing in those units. He stated that the information that they received was that those units are using approximately 100 gpd because they are small apartments. He stated that he believes that we can rely on this historical data as to what the flows will be from these twelve units, and based on all of this he feels that it would be appropriate to sewer these areas into the Borough system and that it won't cause any kind of an over load problem.

He stated that their purpose here tonight is to have the Authority entertain their request to issue a letter indicating that we do have capacity, line capacity and treatment capacity, to provide service to these twelve new apartment units.

Mr. Morrison informed Mr. Riegel and Mr. McCarthy that the Borough's last Chapter 94 Report presented that we are in a projected hydraulic overload already in the next five years and in an existing organic overload. He mentioned that we did receive their Planning Module exemption form, but because we are in this condition they are going to have to fill out a full module and present the calculations that they discussed. He mentioned that the Authority will have to say that it will create an overload and then respond back to DEP on how we are going to handle it. He stated that we are not in a hydraulic overload right now and he thinks we can present to them that the organic overload was just a sample taking for one month. But, since that was the information that was reported and submitted to DEP, we are going to have to jump through some hoops.

Mr. McCarthy mentioned that the Planning Module Exemption was sent in error and that what his office should have sent was a letter requesting the Authority submit a letter stating that they would be willing to serve the project. He stated that the Planning Commission and the Borough Engineer requested that they obtain these letters before coming before Borough Council and filing a Zoning application. He stated that they can make that change and get a full module packet in for that. Mr. Morrison stated that with that and the calculations they can come back with a recommendation. He mentioned that in his report this evening he was going to make that recommendation, that we send the exemption module back with a letter explaining the situation that we are in.

**ENGINEERS REPORT:**

Mr. Morrison presented the Engineers Report dated September 11, 2007. Copy attached.

**Sewer System Infiltration and Inflow Project:**

Mr. Morrison stated that the specs are actually done but there is some discussion that is warranted tonight. He stated that they finished the specs with the concept being that we would dig up the line on Broad Street between manhole 186 and 187 and replaced it with a fifteen inch line. He stated that we were all at the joint meeting last week and became aware of a developer that may install a parallel line and preclude the need for us to make the pipe bigger. He stated that what he is recommending is consideration of having ARRO add an alternative to line that ten inch pipe at ten inches and dig up the laterals in the street and repair them back to the curb. He stated that a big portion of the leaks are actually coming in at the joint adjacent to the sewer line so you are not going to pick that up with a liner, you have to dig it up and fix it.

Mr. Morrison stated that the other concept that the Authority might want to consider is if we were to replace that line or expand the capacity it would probably be cheaper to go down the other side of the ditch. So you may want to delete the dig up and replacement at fifteen inches do the lining do the lateral dig ups and bid it and get it out on the street. He stated that if you expand the capacity along Broad Street in would be the smart thing to do because we already own the right-of-way.

Mr. Morrison stated that the Borough is anxious to move forward with the I & I work, so if the Authority would prefer, ARRO could just change the specs, line that piece, dig up the four laterals and replace them and just get it out as soon as possible. Mr. Morrison stated that if the Authority wants to do that they can take a motion for ARRO to do that and authorize ARRO to advertise it under those conditions. Mr. Butkus asked the Authority what their pleasure was. Mr. Schwartz stated that it sounds like the smartest thing to do. Mr. Butkus agreed. He stated that until this point he was not aware that the Borough's right-of-way came on the West side of the ditch. He thought that it ended at the edge of the ditch. Mr. Morrison stated that the developer did the math and it is significantly cheaper to go down that side of the ditch and that way you would not have to dig up the road and deal with the gas lines and water lines. He stated that the future parallel line would be on the west side of the ditch and outside of the road, but the Borough owns a significantly wide right-of-way there because it was supposed to be a boulevard. Mr. Biggs made the motion; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

Mr. Leiby asked if we know how low the sewer line is from the base of the ditch. Mr. Morrison stated that when they do the design they will have to survey it. He stated that it is not too much, but there is a house down there that gets underneath the ditch with their sewer and the old drawings indicate that it is about two or three feet under the ditch. Mr. Butkus mentioned that down at the Auto Zone it is about eleven feet from street to invert. Mr. Morrison stated that

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)**

we would not cross until we got way down near Reedy Road. Mr. Butkus mentioned that there is a lone house that sits to the North side of Reedy Road. Mr. Schwartz asked if that lateral doesn't come down and go under the creek. Mr. Butkus stated that it did. Mr. Schwartz asked if we shouldn't put a manhole in the road and change his lateral and tie it in there instead of going under the creek. Mr. Butkus stated that it is something that we will have to look at and that it would make sense. Mr. Schwartz asked if that was where it was sinking. Mr. Morrison stated that they were having some issues there with the construction and thought that maybe there was some gas line work there and they damaged the sewer lateral, but they did go back and fix it.

Mr. Morrison stated that they had a discussion with Mr. Ed Corriveau who is with DEP regarding that line. He stated that Mr. Corriveau will go back to DEP and communicate to them what our intended repair is for that line because he was concerned about that.

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

Mr. Morrison mentioned that we authorized the contractor to proceed and that they are waiting on related equipment to be delivered. He mentioned that ARRO sent a September 10<sup>th</sup> letter requesting a site meeting regarding the project and it would include representatives from Safety Bilco. He mentioned that they had concerns about getting deliveries during the construction. Mr. Morrison stated that they will work something out to make sure they can get in and out of their facility.

**Upgrade and Minor Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion:**

Mr. Morrison stated that DEP is requiring a "special study" in lieu of an Act 537 Plan revision and update. He stated that the Borough Council had some concerns about proceeding with that and they wanted more information. He mentioned that we had the joint meeting last week and at the meeting Council requested a summary of the main tasks to be completed, the related costs and the justification. He stated that he has handed out a report that ARRO has pulled together and basically it is a summary of the report that they had done in the past. Mr. Morrison briefly reviewed the report. He stated that if the Authority agrees with the report ARRO will forward it to the Borough, or if the Authority wants some more time to review it they can get back to ARRO and let them know. Mr. Butkus suggested that the Authority study the report until next month. Mr. Biggs stated that we have been through it many times and that we should give it to the Borough. Mr. Biggs made a motion to give the report to Borough Council; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

**Hull Street Apartments - Planning Module Exemption:**

Mr. Morrison mentioned that we discussed this earlier and that ARRO is recommending that the we send back their module exemption package with a letter of explanation.

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)**Hydraulic Model:

Mr. Morrison mentioned that he did meet with Mr. Francis Butkus, Mr. George Butkus and Mr. Lew Christy from Miller Environmental. He stated that they went through the model and demonstrated it and basically it showed what we already knew. There are restrictions on Broad Street and some on the South side of Penn and that is what we are working to relieve. Mr. Francis Butkus mentioned that this Hydraulic Model will also impact on their request for this apartment building because it will empty into that surcharged line. Mr. Morrison handed out copies of a map that showed that areas of concern. Discussion ensued.

Letters:

Mr. Morrison mentioned that most of the letters that went out pertained to Mt. Home Road and E. Kuser, Inc.

Questions & Comments:

Mr. George Butkus asked in light of the Chapter 94 Report saying that the plant is either in or very close to a BOD overload, what, in Mr. Morrison's opinion, is the way to handle this issue. He stated that he realizes that the plant can handle it even though that it not what it is rated for. He asked if it was best to do the paper trail or if there is something else that should be done. Mr. Morrison stated that it will depend on where we go from here and what Borough Council does with this report. He stated that if they concur with this report and they agree with the Authority going forward with all of the proposed facilities that are in it then it will be rather simplistic to get the re-rating after we do the upgrade items. He mentioned, however, that if we do not go forward, and we don't get the .25 mgd extra capacity, we can still possibly get the organic re-rating and pursue hydraulic reduction with the I & I and see how far that gets us.

Mr. Francis Butkus asked Mr. Morrison if there is any special screening available like what they saw with the Cannibal system. Mr. Morrison stated that what they are proposing to put in will be a good step toward that. He stated that what we are doing now is grinding up the solids, supposedly, into smaller pieces that should not clog things. He stated that what happens is that you end up shredding these rags which end up in strips and they re-entwine and become mop heads and they are still clogging the pumps. He stated that what we are proposing to do, is screen the influent with course bar screens that will take out a lot of the rags and plastic.

Mr. George Butkus mentioned that he and Mr. Hillibush had a discussion about garbage disposals. He stated that several municipalities across the country have outlawed them because it is bio-matter that used to go in the garbage can and now it is going down the drain which could be causing the increase in the BOD. He also mentioned that the bars and restaurants putting alcohol down the drain will increase the BOD.

**ENGINEERS REPORT: (Cont.)**

Discussion ensued concerning Alcon and the amount of water they use. Mr. Biggs asked if there is anything we can do in the event that a local company grows that they pay for the additional flow and expense. Mr. Morrison stated that we already have a ordinance to that effect. He stated that if somebody comes in with a change of use that requires more flow they have to pay another tapping fee. He stated that sometimes these places just fly under the radar. Discussion ensued. Mr. Leiby made a motion for ARRO to send a letter to Alcon; seconded by Mr. Biggs. Motion carried.

**MR. HOFFERT - SOLICITOR:**

Mr. Hoffert mentioned that he just filled out a form that Ms. White gave him. He stated that the form was from the insurance and bond company for E. Kuser Inc. saying that their inquire about the status of the project is premature because it has not begun yet.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill from PPL Electric for pre-work for the pump station in the amount of \$1,535.00. Mr. Leiby made a motion to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Biggs. Motion carried

Mr. Butkus stated that we have seven bills from ARRO Consulting totaling \$21,041.13. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bills; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill from Mr. Hoffert for services rendered through September 5, 2007 in the amount of \$500.00. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Schwartz. Motion carried.

Mr. Butkus stated that we have a bill from Ms. White in the amount of \$480.00 for services rendered for August 2007. Motion was made by Mr. Leiby to pay the bill; seconded by Mr. Biggs. Motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Butkus asked if everyone had received a copy of the Treasurer's Report dated September 11, 2007 and if anyone had any questions. Ms. White mentioned that Mr. Jim Elliott called and asked if he could prepay the last ten tapping fees for Brookfield Manor. After receiving the OK from Mr. Butkus she called Mr. Elliott back and told him that he could. She stated that he dropped off a check in the amount of \$25,000.00 on August 30, 2007 and that she deposited that check in the account at Blue Ball. Motion was made by Mr. Biggs to accept the Treasurer's Report; seconded by Mr. Leiby. Motion carried.

**MR. GEORGE BUTKUS:**

Mr. George Butkus stated that the only thing he had to comment on required an executive session. He stated that he wanted to give the Authority an update on the executive session that occurred during the joint meeting between Council and the Authority.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Mr. Francis Butkus called for an executive session at 8:35 p.m.

Meeting reconvened at 9:00 p.m.

**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. Biggs. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Elizabeth White  
Municipal Authority Secretary/Treasurer