

**Mercersburg Sewer Authority  
Borough Hall, Mercersburg PA  
February 11, 2021  
MINUTES**

**Attending:** Vice-Chairman Jim Malone, Gene Headley, Lena Eckstine, Jon Piper, Borough Manager Derek Stoy, Secretary/Treasurer Stacey Golden

**Absent:** Chairman Dan Chayes

**Guest(s) / Press:** None

Vice Chairman Jim Malone called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

No public comments.

**MOTION: To accept the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable months ending December 31, 2020 and January 31, 2021 was made by Gene Headley, second by Lena Eckstine. All ayes, motion carried.**

The December 10, 2020 minutes were accepted as written. There was not a Sewer Authority meeting for January.

Authority moved into the Borough Manager's Report.

Borough Manager Derek Stoy reported on plant operations; 1. The waste transfer pump was installed on February 10, 2021, Plant Operator Jon Piper will test it. 2. The digester blower #2 timer board failed and needs looked at. 3. The main pumping station alarm is still waiting to be installed. 4. The generator at the main plant operations needs to have automatic startup. 5. The control panel heater needs repaired. 6. The level transducer at the reed beds need replaced, Chairman Dan Chayes is getting pricing. Manager Stoy continued in his report reviewing the all call system stating it is a "work in progress" and that it has been used for several calls. There was an issue with some people not getting the whole message, after consulting with tech support, a sample call was made and the system worked fine, the company said it was most likely cellular related. Manager Stoy sent out a video to the Sewer Authority to review about online billing, Stoy attached paperwork reflecting the cost. Stoy noted that the billing clerk, Cindy Piper would still have to separate the water and sewer portions of the bill to manually enter into the system and that there would be a 3% convenience fee plus 35 cent transaction fee that the customer would pay. Stoy said the new borough website would be done in the Spring and would be a great time to put the link on the site for the online billing. Stoy said Jon Piper would be reporting on the DEP notice of violations, Stoy included the December NOV's in the packet. DEP is requesting a response letter. Manager Stoy concluded his report saying he created a plant operation RFP and asked for approval for advertisement.

Authority moved into the Plant Manager's Report.

Plant Manager Jon Piper's report for December 9, 2020 to January 13, 2021 stated that there was a

violation of the NPDES permit limits for Ammonia-nitrogen, DO and TSS for November (Jon noted this is a month behind due to the time frame of receiving the lab results). Piper said the violations are in conjunction with the SBR 2's "major failure" as reported last month. Piper stated that an official written response that was requested by DEP will be ready for review by the solicitor within the next two weeks. Plant Manager Piper continued in his report that there have been issues with the UV system which Kappe ('local' Trojan UV system reps) visited the site multiple times to address. The final diagnosis revealed a problem with the exterior unit and the interior recording site, the system is working but no way of quantifying on a daily basis of its operation. DEP was notified of the issue through the engineer with no response as of yet. Piper said a temporary fix is available at a cost of \$8,000, Piper said he will have more details next month. Piper gave an update on the SBR # 2, adjustments were made with the influent valve and now the tank levels are within a few inches of each other. Piper explained that the plant went into "storm mode" and no alarms or notifications went out to the operator or showed up on the control panel to indicate this, Piper said this will need evaluated by Bio Microbics (control panel manufacturer). Manager Piper noted that this is a twenty-year-old panel and is being evaluated in the engineers needs analysis. A leak in the valve, its seal or hose/piping connecting to the decant valve with SBR #2 is being monitored but is not affecting plant operations. Piper said he responded to two alarms, both for the same problem for SBR #1 mixer fault, electrician Marshall Stuff was asked to take a look at the issue. The sludge transfer pump was received and bids are currently being taken to "replace/connect".

Plant Manager Jon Piper submitted another report for January 14, 2021 through February 9, 2021 reporting a violation for the month of December of the NPDES permit limits for Ammonia-nitrogen & DO. Piper stated the violation could be due to SBR #2 not fully recovering from its "attempted rejuvenation and ongoing documented DO differences between the SBR's". A final response to DEP's notice of violation on November 25, 2020 was reviewed and submitted to DEP with a conference call scheduled for February 12, 2021 with Plant Manager Jon Piper, Engineer Lance Hoover and Borough Manager Derek Stoy. The UV system issue is still ongoing with not being able to quantify on a daily basis of its operation, DEP was notified and no response to date. Piper gave an update on the SBR #2 rejuvenation saying it will need another rejuvenation which will include a pump out/dispose of waste and restarting of the treatment process. Piper explained that a significant air leak was found causing an air imbalance between the two SBR's, a new piece of pipe was cut and replaced causing the pressure to SBR #2 to increase immediately. Adjustments are being made and monitoring to see the affects to each SBR. Bio Microbics have not evaluated the control panel yet. Decant valve in SBR #2 is being monitored. Musser Mechanical will be replacing the sludge transfer pump on February 10, 2021. Plant Manager Piper concluded that there weren't any alarms for the month.

No Old Business.

The authority moved into New Business.

**MOTION: To approve the DE Cordell Plumbing and Heating LLC quote for an electric water heater in the amount of \$748.00 was made by Gene Headley, second by Lena Eckstine. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve payment to Eberly's Plumbing & Heating, Inc. in the amount of \$282.00 submitted by Mike Disylvester was made by Lena Eckstine, second by Gene Headley. All ayes, motion carried.**

The authority discussed the High Tide Environmental, LLC proposal from Lance Hoover. This is a small

business Lance owns and operates separately from Dennis E. Black. Lance's business would save \$40 per hour in comparison to Dennis E. Black. DEP (Department of Environmental Services) says anytime Hoover is at the water or sewer plant Dennis E. Black would not cover any issues. Hoover said he would still work for Dennis E. Black for certain things.

**MOTION: To approve the High Tide Environmental, LLC proposal for Wastewater Operations Consulting Services was made by Gene Headley, second by Lena Eckstine. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To approve the Sewer Plant Operator RFP to be advertised in various locations by the Borough Manager, Derek Stoy was made by Lena Eckstine, second by Gene Headley. All ayes, motion carried.**

**MOTION: To adjourn at 7:55 PM was made by Gene Headley, second by Lena Eckstine. All ayes, motion carried.**

*These meeting minutes have been transcribed and respectfully submitted for approval by Stacey Golden with the use of her meeting notes and audio recording.*

Date approved: \_\_\_\_\_