

**Sewer Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA
April 10, 2014
MINUTES**

Attending: Chairman Dan Chayes, Vice-Chairman Jim Malone, Secretary/Treasurer Doug Hoffman, Catalin Bonciu, William Gaunt, Assistant Borough Manager Dawn Scheller

Absent: Borough Manager Tammy Oberholzer, Engineer, and Solicitor

Guests: Jon Kittredge, Main Street, Mercersburg

Press: None

Chairman Dan Chayes called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He welcomed the guest and asked if anyone had any Public Comment.

Jon Kittredge spoke and stated three concerns. First was Mr. Cotton's issue, he believes the Authority has made a mistake and the Authority should pay him. Second item was regarding the Personnel Committee, he reviewed that he is the Chair of the Personnel Committee and reviewed that it is up to the President of Council who appoints the Committees. Jon stated that it does not matter how many make up the committee and that it is an advisory committee. He invited any who wanted to attend. The last item is about the backhoe, Jon reviewed that he was going to recommend to Council that a couple of hundreds of dollars should be spent for an independent heavy equipment mechanic to run an inspection on the vehicle to find out what is wrong, what are the costs. Jon feels that it is a little early to discuss about replacing a backhoe.

Dan Chayes thanked Jon for his comments.

The Authority moved on to the Treasurer's Report.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report and Bills Payable, was made by Jim Malone, second by Doug Hoffman, Catalin Bonciu mentioned the invoice for Salzman and Hughes of \$823.50 and \$321.00 both for the Cotton issue, Catalin also made mention that he feels the Authority should pay him, Chairman Dan Chayes reviewed that the Cotton discussion would go under New Business, no other comments were made and a vote was taken, all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Chayes moved on to the March 13, 2014 Minutes.

MOTION: to approve the March 13, 2014 Meeting Minutes with the addition of, "Catlin Bonciu stated that he felt they should pay Mr. Cotton, he is a good customer" just before the Authority went into executive session, was made by Jim Malone, second by William Gaunt second, all ayes, motion carried.

Chairman Chayes asked if there was a report from the Solicitor. There was no report from the Solicitor.

Chairman Chayes asked if there was an Engineer's Report, Lance did not have anything at this time. Dawn reviewed an item which she has requested comments from Lance and Sam regarding a Sewer Issue on Linden Avenue. Dawn Scheller reviewed the information that she had and stated that she would keep the Authority informed as she gathers information.

Dawn Scheller reviewed that the Carbaugh Sewer Issue was addressed and determined to be Columbia Gas's contractor and them working with property owner.

Chairman Chayes asked for the Manager's Report.

In Tammy's absence Dawn Scheller reviewed Tammy Oberholzer's Report. Dawn Scheller reviewed that the office is awaiting financing options from the vendor. The Authority discussed that the backhoe is over 20 years old and there is only one. The Authority discussed the Joint Equipment Fund, who contributes, and reviewed that all three entities are separately asked to approve the purchase. Dawn Scheller reviewed the request of having the blower repaired at a cost of \$2131.00. The Authority asked that more detail be obtained as to what we have for current equipment vs and what is needed regarding blowers and pumps. Dawn said she would speak with Paul for more information and bring it back to the Authority. The Authority wished for clarification asking if a new blower was placed in the tank, a repaired was placed in the second tank, and this third being repaired at the cost of \$2131.00 would be used as a spare.

MOTION: to authorize the repair of the blower in the amount of \$2131.00 to be paid from account 42921 / treatment plant general maintenance account assuming this will be the 3rd blower as a backup for the plant was made by Doug Hoffman, second by William Gaunt, all ayes, motion carried.

The Chairman asked for clarification for approval limits of the Office. Dawn Scheller reviewed that she is authorized to approve up to \$500 and should an emergency arise she can contact the Chairman and inform him of the expense and receive the Authority's approval at the next meeting. The Authority discussed the importance of keeping the plant operating. Dawn Scheller reported that the Authority will receive adjustment requests at the next Sewer Meeting in May.

The Authority discussed the date and time of the next Council Meeting. Members of the Authority expressed interest in attending the meeting.

Catalin Bonciu spoke that he doesn't believe that there is an issue with not having someone on the Personnel Committee. He asked the question what the reason why Sewer needs to have representation is.

Chairman Chayes reviewed that one employee is paid 90% by Water and Sewer, one is paid 100% by Water and Sewer, and 5 employees are paid approximately 60% by Water and Sewer. Dan reviewed that as Authority Members they are the responsible parties to make decisions on Infrastructure, the equipment used to repair it, and more importantly the people who do the day-to-day maintenance, and budgeting on it. He continued that if there is no representative from this business to oversee and have input and manage the employees who work from them that does not work as a business model. It would be irresponsible as an employer. In an employee/employer relationship there is responsibility from the employer to treat their employees well, and respect, and reward, and encourage.

Catalin Bonciu stated that the Personnel Committee only recommends to Council.

Chairman Chayes said that if you are going to attend the meeting you would like to be able to take part in the discussion, be able to make recommendations, and have a say on the floor.

Catalin Bonciu reviewed that the President, or Vice-President of Council, or Chairman of the Personnel Committee, had said that if there is something pertinent to Water or Sewer they would immediately for an important issue they would call Members or Chair if something is pertinent.

Chairman Chayes said until you wind up with the unintended consequences issues. The Authority then reviewed that Tammy has been placed on administrative leave by, Borough Council. They continued additional discussion noting the Council will need to disclose why.

Jon Kittredge stated that Council does not have disclose a reason.

Chairman Chayes stated that in the mean time employees are wondering if they will be placed on administrative leave, he continued to state that would be his position if he worked for them.

They spoke about the underdrain pump issues and discussed further. The Authority request more detail information about the underdrain system and the process needing to remove the pumps. Additional information will be brought forward.

Dawn Scheller reported that the Academy may be applying for additional services on the Sewer System and she will bring more information forward when she receives it.

No Public Works Department Report.

Chairman Chayes asked if there was any Old Business or New Business, no other items were brought forward.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:50 pm was made by Doug Hoffman, second by Catalin Bonciu, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed by Dawn Scheller and have been respectfully submitted for approval.

Date Approved: _____