

Mercersburg Sewer Authority Meeting
Borough Hall, Mercersburg, PA 17236
February 29, 2024
MINUTES

Attending: Chairman Jim Malone, Member Joe Creighton, Member Ed Twine, Borough Manager Dawn Scheller, Borough Secretary Matilda Gorman, Public Works Employee Donnie Keefer, Attorney Samuel E. Wiser, Jr., and Engineer Lance Hoover

Absent: Member Gene Headley

Guest(s)/Press: None

Chairman Malone called the meeting to order at 9:33 am and opened the floor to public comment. Hearing none, Chairman Malone moved on to the other items listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Scheller reviewed the items included in the meeting packet which included the zero-usage utility bill report for the July 10th Bills and the October 10th Bills. She noted that she would begin working on January 10, 2024, zero usage utility bill report. Mrs. Scheller included an estimated repayment schedule amortized over 360 months, at an estimated rate of 3.75%, for both a 2.5-Million Dollar Project v. a 6-Million Dollar Project along with a copy of the rate increases since 2014.

Engineer Hoover provided information regarding the UV System. He noted that the current system is incredibly old and antiquated and there are no repair parts available. Engineer Hoover reviewed that samples are pulled two times a week and the Authority should know that it is possible with the antiquated UV system the Authority could receive additional NOVs. The replacement of the UV system is a project that the Authority should consider. He noted that there are three UV systems that will work, that could be installed immediately, that would not impact any design parameters behind it. Engineer Hoover noted that it is up to the Authority to determine if they wish to proceed forward with the temporary chlorine injection system until a new UV system is put in place or just move forward with the UV System. Engineer Hoover provided a permit timeline which is estimated to be 3 to 4 months and provided an estimated lead time on purchasing the equipment of 4-6 months. Attorney Wiser confirmed that this project could be a standalone project and would be advertised and placed out for bid. Engineer Hoover noted that it would be 12-15 months for this project. The Authority discussed the two options and after discussion they expressed interest in proceeding forward with replacing the UV system.

MOTION: to authorize Engineer Hoover to proceed forward with the design work and permit on the UV System and to provide an update and recommendations on possible UV systems at the next meeting was made by Member Twine, second by Member Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

MOTION: to authorize the Solicitor's Office and Engineer Hoover to draft a formal response to DEP was made by Member Twine, second by Member Creighton, all ayes

The Authority Members discussed the two proposed plant projects the "Inside the Fence Project – Basic Upgrade" estimated at 2.5-Million Dollars v. "Outside the Fence – Full Scale Upgrade" estimated at 6-Million Dollars. The Authority requested that the office work on preparing information regarding what the rate increase would need to be to pay for each of the proposed projects based on the amortization schedules provided. The Authority Members expressed interest in holding a Town

Hall Meeting inviting the Public to attend and provide information on both projects. The Authority requested that Engineer Hoover provide updated estimates removing the UV Systems from each project and include the additional items noted like the pumping station and the reed beds. Solicitor Wisner noted that the Authority should include a date certain that the Authority will submit a direction as to if they wish to rehab the current facilities or a plan for a new facility to DEP. Mr. Wisner noted that they just need to have a date as to when that decision would be made. The Authority members continued to discuss the project and the importance of holding a Town Hall meeting sometime soon. This will be discussed more at the next meeting. They wanted to allow time for the Engineer and Office to pull together additional information for both options before choosing a date to ensure that the Authority has time to hold the Townhall Meeting on both options, listen to public comment, and then make a decision as to which direction they wished to move forward with. This led to the notation that after they accept Mr. Headley's resignation, they would be down two Authority Board Members.

MOTION: to accept with regret Gene Headley's resignation from the Sewer Authority was made by Member Twine, second Member Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

The Authority Members reviewed that they are hopeful that they will have two new members prior to the Townhall Meeting and asked the office to place the notice seeking members on the website and advertise accordingly.

The Authority revisited the air pump discussion noted at a previous meeting.

MOTION: to authorize the purchase of an air pump KASCO Robust Aire Aeration System at the cost of \$2,675.00 + S/H was made by Member Twine, second by Creighton, all ayes, motion carried.

The Authority Members thanked Attorney Wisner and Engineer Hoover for being present at the meeting and noted that additional discussion would occur at the next regularly scheduled meeting on March 14, 2024. The Board would at that meeting set a date for the Townhall meeting along with a date as to when they would decide whether they wish to move forward with the Basic Plant Upgrade or the Full-Scale Plant Upgrade.

MOTION: to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 am was made by Member Creighton, second by Member Twine, all ayes, motion carried.

These meeting minutes were transcribed with the use of the meeting recording and have been respectfully submitted for review and approval.

Date approved: 3/14/2024 Motion by: Creighton Second by: Twine



Dawn L. Schetter, Borough Manager

SEAL