

The regular meeting of Lehigh Township Municipal Authority was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024. Board members Carl Sharpe, Duane Deppe and Phil Gogel were present as were Angelika Forndran, Ed Andres, Ken Fulford, Alyssa Fulford, Owen Baker and Dave Getz. Board members Matt Motsko and Steve Arnold were absent. Chairman Sharpe called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

The minutes of the January 4, 2024 meeting were presented for approval. Duane Deppe made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. After the motion, Angelika Forndran said there was an item on Page 2, second last paragraph about “Chris Noll of the Sewer Enforcement Office should check the grease traps from the restaurant.” She said the statement is correct, however, she said if the problem is on the sewer system the Authority is responsible for it. The SOC will only check on lot systems. Atty. Andres said the motion can be approved as previously stated but the change should be noted on next month’s minutes.

Dave Getz presented the financial report as follows:

Sewer Operating Account:

Balance February 1, 2024		\$160,639.62
User Fees, Penalties, etc.	\$97,223.04	
Operating Expenses	\$66,288.41	
Balance March 7,, 2024		\$191,574.25

Assets:

Truist Money Market	\$150,006.72
Truist CDs	\$506,083.38
Total Assets	\$656,090.10

Total Sewer Balance March 7, 2024 \$847,664.35

The balance of our delinquent sewer system customers as of March 7, 2024 is \$223,755.17

Sewer Escrow Account:

Balance February 1, 2024		\$ 36,434.57
Receipts	\$ 2,500.85	
Expenses – Cowan	\$ 4,459.76	
Balance March 7, 2024		\$ 34,475.66

Total Sewer Accounts March 7, 2024 \$882,140.01

Water Operating Account:

Balance February 1, 2024		\$ 37,322.34
User Fees, Penalties, etc.	\$8,164.11	
Operating Expenses	\$2,152.28	
Truist Loan Payment	\$4,654.31	
Total Expenses	\$6,806.59	
Balance March 7, 2024		\$ 38,679.86

The balance of our delinquent water system customers as of March 7, 2024 is \$1,027.20.

Water Escrow Account:

Balance February 1 and March 7, 2024		\$ 114.90
Total Water Accounts March 7, 2024		\$ 38,794.76

The total bills to be paid from the Water Operating Account was \$6,806.59. Duane Deppe made a motion to pay these bills. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The total bills to be paid from the Sewer Operating Account was \$66,288.41. Duane Deppe made a motion to pay these bills. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The total bills to be paid from the Sewer Escrow Account was \$4,459.76. Duane Deppe made a motion to pay these bills. Phil Gogel seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

On the Operations Report, Ken Fulford prepared and submitted the Pennsville NPDES Permit. Everything else is running well. Carl Sharpe asked if your operator was able to inspect the chlorine contact tank at Danielsville WWTP for repairs. Ken said Chris Knopf will be checking into that in the next week or so.

On the Engineering Report, Angelika Forndran said we have not heard anything from the H2O grant program or the LSA Statewide grant yet.

On the Danielsville WWTP, Angelika prepared bid forms for the restoration of sludge disposal reed beds. She would like a motion from the Board to proceed with the advertisement with Penn Bid and one -time ad in the newspaper. Phil Gogel made a motion to post the bid for the restoration of sludge disposal or the reed beds in the Danielsville WWTP as written by Cowan Associates. Duane Deppe seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

On the Butternut Pump Station project, Anjelika said the wet well was cleaned out and the bubble was re-installed inside a steel standpipe on 3/4/24. She said the Omni Site flow readings improved following the installation.

On the Wood Drive Pump Station, the WAP brushes on the Huber Screen were replaced on 3/4/24. The final settings of both the screen and wash press to optimize performance can be done remotely with Huber Tech and the Operator after the screen is cleaned out.

On the I&I, there were ten rain events totaling only 2.03 inches at the Danielsville WWTP. Since there was not much rain prior to the CCTV work which was scheduled for the first week of March, the work was cancelled and re-scheduled for the first week of April. She said that hopefully we will be getting more rain during that period.

Angelika said Bellview Pump has located and installed risers on all the manholes necessary for the 2024 CCTV work and also completed all of the remaining manhole work in Danielsville, Walnutport and Pennsville with the exception of three manholes that needed odd sized risers. They are on order and should take about two weeks to be received.

On the Turkey Hill project, LTMA is waiting for the receipt of updated plans for a formal review, subject to LTMA receipt of plan review escrow funds.

On the Northwoods Project, Angelika received construction escrow estimates for Pases IIA and IIB. She proved comments and final LEA signed and sealed estimates were received February 14, 2024 with a total inspection cost estimated at \$23,240.86. Carl Sharpe asked how close they are as far as the installation of the connections to the Heritage Village system. Angelika said no metering pits have been installed and no flow will go through the Lucille Court area until they are installed and inspected.

On the Hilltop Center, Angelika received revised drawings to be submitted with electrical design when completed by Fred Ebert. She said the permits tracking sheet shows the LTMA PWS Permit No. 4820502 for the construction of the water line from City of Bethlehem water filtration plant expires Mar 25, 2024. Fred Ebert is to contact LTMA with a request for a time extension when required.

Ebert Engineering submitted the Water & Sewer plans dated 2/5/24 for the LVRS development for the main water and sewer pipe connecting to the Pennsville WWTP and water booster station site. Cowan received the drawing on March 4, 2024. This set of plans included the easement outline for the main pipes to be dedicated to LTMA on the LVRS property.

On the Water Service Line Inventory Required Program, Angelika offered a revised customer survey sheet that should be sent to all water customers with the April 1, 2024 invoices. The customers hopefully will fill out the information on the survey and return to LTMA with their invoice payment.

On new sewer connections, Angelika received a request from a prospective buyer of the 4282 Mountain View Drive property. She will contact the Township SEO to discuss future connections along Mountain View Drive between Wood Drive and Butternut Drive.

On New Business, Dave Getz provided a draft letter to be mailed to all water system customers concerning a water rate increase. In the letter, Dave detailed that an increase is needed due to new PA DEP regulations (PFAS) which is a series of synthetic organic chemicals. In addition, due to a new directive on DEP's Lead & Copper Rule Revisions, the EPA required the development of an inventory of all service line connections in the public water systems, which Angelika Forndran provided the Board with the info and survey.

Carl Sharpe made a motion to have Atty. Andres authorize Resolution No. 1-2024 approve the water rate increase of the quarterly minimum fee of 5000 gallons from \$106.00/quarter to \$116.00/quarter and the gallons over the minimum of 5000 gallons from \$0.0145/gallon to \$0.016/gallon. Duane Deppe seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There being no further business to conduct, Phil Gogel made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Duane Deppe seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.