

Upper Macungie Township Authority

June 11, 2015 Meeting Minutes

A meeting of the Authority was held at 4 PM in the municipal building. Board members present were; Chairman; Edward Earley, James Brunell, Jeffrey Grim, Barry Moyer. Others present; Township Manager Daniel Olpere, Solicitor; Andrew Schantz, Consulting Engineer; Joseph Santilli, newly hired Township Financial Director; Bruce Koller and Sewer Authority Manager; Joseph Bateman.

Chairman Earley asked all present to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Olpere introduced Bruce Koller as the newly hired Township Chief Financial Officer.

Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes of the March 12 meeting were presented for consideration. A motion was made by Mr. Brunell and seconded by Mr. Grim to approve the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Monthly Bills and Financial Status

The bills for the month of May were presented for the Board's consideration. Mr. Brunell commented that he felt that the invoices from Schrantz electrical contractors are too high considering the work that was being done. Mr. Bateman responded by saying that he has heard that comment from others and that he intended to begin requiring multiple quotes for electrical work. Following the discussion a motion was made by Mr. Grim and seconded by Mr. Earley to approve the bills as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

Mr. Grim stated that he had not received any correspondence.

Public

There was no public present.

Authority Manager's Report

Mr. Bateman stated that he had attended a work session at Lehigh County Authority for the purpose of learning about the county's proposed plan to update their Sewage Facilities Plan (Act 537). Mr. Bateman highlighted the alternatives under consideration to increase the capacity of the system. Mr. Bateman stated that he is reviewing the proposed alternatives in detail to ensure that the County Authority has been thorough in identifying alternatives and also in conducting their financial evaluation. A lengthy discussion ensued. The Board acknowledged that additional capacity is needed and understood that the end result of the 537 Plan update would likely result in a large capital expenditure. Mr. Brunell stressed that capacity is limited and suggested that a standard letter be prepared advising applicants for subdivision land development that capacity is on a first-come first-served basis and that it is limited. Mr. Bateman stated that he would draft a letter and provide that letter to planning and zoning. The Board thanked Mr. Bateman for the report.

Mr. Bateman present a draft letter concerning the payment of sewer use fees by the property owners affected by the Phase 4 sewer extension. The purpose of this letter is to inform those property owners that sewer use fees will be due beginning January 2016. This is in accordance with the Township's ordinances. The Board had several suggestions for changes in the letter. Mr. Bateman noted the changes and stated that he would update the letter. The Board concurred with the decision to send the letter.

Consulting Engineers Report

Mr. Santilli presented a status report on the capital projects underway for 2015. He highlighted the status of the manhole rehabilitation, the 2015 CIPP and grinder installation contracts. There was some discussion concerning the method for procuring a muffin monster. The authority utilizes this particular brand of grinder in all of its other stations. It has proved to be more than capable of doing a good job and they wished to continue installing this equipment where appropriate. Following a discussion it was decided that the engineer would prequalify contractors who were experienced in the muffin monster installation.

Mr. Santilli proceeded to highlight various subdivision land development projects underway. These included the Bortz property, Schaeffer run and the Kokolus Farm. There was some discussion regarding the authority's position on requiring developers whose projects straddle municipal boundaries to connect to the Upper Macungie Township system regardless of the physical conditions. The outcome of the discussion was that while it is desirable to add additional customers to the customer base that each individual situation should be evaluated a decision made based on the particular set of circumstances surrounding that subdivision.

Solicitors Report

Mr. Schantz stated that he had nothing to report.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Grim and seconded by Mr. Earley to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting: September 10

