

**WHITEMARSH TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
October 21, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Meeting of the Board of the Whitemarsh Township Authority on October 21, 2020, was called to order by Chairman Timothy Ferris at 7:00 p.m. and held via video conferencing. This change in location was announced by placing a Notice on the front door of the Whitemarsh Township Building, 616 Germantown Pike, Lafayette Hill, Pennsylvania and also by a Notice posted on the Authority's website.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board Members Present:

Timothy Ferris – Chairman
Jonathan Riesberg – Vice Chairman (joined meeting at 7:15 p.m.)
Jeanette Quirus, Secretary
Jori Broad – Treasurer
Gene Swider – Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Also in Attendance:

Michael P. Clarke, Esquire – Rudolph Clarke, LLC
Alex Glassman, Esquire – Rudolph Clarke, LLC
Allen Mason, P.E. – Carroll Engineering Corp.
Brent Wagner, Manager
Thomas Bonjo, Operations Manager
Kyle Detweiler, Finance Director

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting of the Board, the motion carried 5-0.

STAFF REPORT

ENGINEER'S REPORT:

Fields Drive – Abandoned Sanitary Sewer Force Main – Mr. Mason reported that he has received a quote from one contractor so far for this project but he expects a few more to come in. Mr. Mason also stated that the cost to complete this project is below the bidding threshold.

Motion to Approve Change Order No. 2 (Contract 18-2) – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to approve Change Order No. 2 (Contract 18-2), carried 5-0.

Motion to Pay Application for Payment No. 4 (Contract 18-2) – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to pay Application for Payment No. 4 (Contract 18-2) in the amount of \$880.01 to MJF Electrical Contracting, Inc., carried 5-0.

Motion to Pay Application for Payment No. 4 (Contract 20-1G) – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to pay Application for Payment No. 4 (Contract 20-1G) in the amount of \$62,914.49 to McCarthy Construction, Inc., carried 5-0.

Motion to Pay Application for Payment No. 3 (Contract 20-1E) – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to pay Application for Payment No. 3 (Contract 20-1E) in the amount of \$13,676.35 to Lenni Electric Corporation, carried 5-0.

Motion to Pay Application for Payment No. 1 (Contract 20-2) – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to pay Application for Payment No. 1 (Contract 20-2) in the amount of 524,770.70 to Joao & Bradley Construction Co., Inc., carried 5-0.

WASTEWATER MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Wagner will incorporate the Wastewater Manager’s report in with his Executive Director’s report.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Motion to Approve Encroachment Agreement – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Swider to approve the Encroachment Agreement between Whitmarsh Township Authority and Molly Cannon for property located at 1 Righter Street, Conshohocken, PA, carried 5-0.

MANAGER’S REPORT:

Mr. Wagner reported that there were pump failures at Pump Station #2 and Pump Station #6 this month. Mr. Wagner gave the prices to purchase new pumps as opposed to having the old pumps repaired and it made sense to get new pumps for both pump stations. As such, the following motion was made:

Motion to Purchase Two New Pumps – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Mr. Riesberg to purchase two new pumps, one for Pump Station #2 and one for Pump Station #6, carried 5-0.

Mr. Wagner reported that the plant had one fecal exceedance this month and he believes the sample may have gotten contaminated by the lab. As such, the Authority is splitting samples with two different labs to further investigate this issue.

Mr. Wagner received a quote from Blooming Glen to provide and install more media for the secondary trickling filter since further settling has occurred. Mr. Wagner is asking the Board to think about approving the Authority staff to do this job themselves which would provide the Authority a savings of approximately \$35,000. Mr. Clarke stated that he would need to determine whether a project like this would need to go out to bid.

Mr. Bonjo reported that collections are going good and staff has been helping residents with any lateral issues they’re having due to Covid and excessive use of cleaning products.

Mr. Bonjo reported that a resident on Valley Green Road had a major sinkhole occur in front of her house. Authority staff, along with Public Works, went out to take a look and they determined it was actually a PECO issue. The homeowner put up a Facebook post praising the Authority's response to her issue.

901 Washington Street - Mr. Bonjo reported that he is meeting with a survey crew on Friday as there are some manholes that need to be surveyed for a new development going in at this location.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mr. Detweiler reported that the 2021 Preliminary Operating Budget is in this month's Board Packet for review by the Board members. Mr. Detweiler stated that he is still waiting on some insurance premiums costs and will update the budget as these numbers come in. Mr. Detweiler also pointed out some big expenses in the budget which include chemicals and sludge disposal costs.

Mr. Detweiler reported that the fall commercial billing will be going out next month and extended early discount date letters will be accompanying the bills to each resident.

Mr. Detweiler also reported on the possibility of an informational insert being included with all bills starting with the spring 2021 bills.

Mr. Detweiler reported that four separate proposals came in from Militia Hill Security for the new Authority office building. These proposals were for the fire alarms, security system, access control and surveillance cameras for a total proposed cost of \$37,542.00. A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus to allow the contractor to lay the groundwork for the installation of these systems in the new building, carried 5-0.

Approval of Monthly Expenditures – A motion was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Broad to pay the expenditures and bills as presented in the amount of \$865,314.58, carried 5-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. was made by Mr. Ferris and seconded by Ms. Quirus, carried 5-0.

Minutes Prepared by Dottie Winterbottom