

PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

Minutes from Regularly Scheduled Meeting August 1, 2024

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Penn Township Municipal Authority was held on Thursday, August 1, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in the Penn Township Municipal Authority Office located at 2595 Route 522, Selinsgrove, PA. Chairman Thomas Ferry presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Thomas Ferry, Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire, Treasurer Michael Kuhns, Secretary Gregory Aungst, and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Isaac Ramer

MEMBERS EXCUSED: *None*

OTHERS PRESENT: Solicitor Matthew Cravitz, Operator Cody Cutler, Engineer Joseph Pfirman, and Admin. Secretary Susan Seebold

VISITORS PRESENT: Tony Paar, Matthew Casey, and Nakia Moore of Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse, Dan Kuruna, Chris Fetter, and Jon Payne of the Penn Township Planning Commission, and Stephen Zumbrun of Blank Rome

Chairman Thomas Ferry called the August 1, 2024 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES:

The Authority members reviewed the minutes of the July 2, 2024 PTMA meeting. After a brief discussion, Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire motioned to approve the minutes of the July 2, 2024 Penn Township Municipal Authority meeting as presented. Treasurer Michael Kuhns seconded the motion with Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Isaac Ramer abstaining. MOTION PASSED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: *None*

CORRESPONDENCE:

2023 Credit / Deficit Computations – Greg Pysher, ESCRA:

The Authority members reviewed the July 18, 2024 letter from Greg Pysher of ESCRA concerning the approved 2023 Credit/Deficit Computations, which were calculated on the basis of Flow. It shall be noted that PTMA will be getting a substantial credit applied to their 1st quarter 2025 Regional System bill later this year.

2025 ESCRA Net Operating Budget Flow Estimates – Greg Pysher, ESCRA:

The Authority members reviewed the July 29, 2024 letter from Greg Pysher of ESCRA concerning the 2025 ESCRA net operating budget flow estimates. After a brief discussion, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Isaac Ramer motioned to send a letter to the Eastern Snyder County Regional Authority stating that PTMA estimates their 2025 flows to be approximately 0.360 mgd. Secretary Gregory Aungst seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

BRIGHT FARMS / PENN GREENHOUSE WATER USAGE:

Mr. Tony Paar, Mr. Matthew Casey and Ms. Nakia Moore of Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse along with their legal representative, Mr. Stephen Zumbrun of Blank Rome, came before the Authority to discuss why PENN Greenhouse has been continually in violation of their maximum permitted water usage of 34,400 gallons per day (GPD) for over the past six weeks. After the Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse representatives explained their investigative efforts in decreasing the facility's water usage, the Authority members and the Penn Township Planning Commission members stressed the urgency to have this issue resolved immediately. They explained that when the PENN Greenhouse facility uses over their permitted water usage, they are essentially taking water away from other PTMA water customers, both residential and commercial. The Authority members also explained that the Authority purchased new pumps earlier this year to replace the 29-year-old one currently in the Authority's well. Unfortunately, due to supply demands, the new pumps will not be delivered until sometime this fall. In the meantime, the older pump is keeping up with their customers' permitted demand; however, it cannot keep up with the additional demand Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse is generating. The Authority members stressed, if this pump fails, it will be detrimental not only to the PENN Greenhouse facility, but to the entire PTMA water system.

After a lengthy discussion, the Authority members instructed Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse representatives to submit weekly progress reports to the Authority office, which include the following items:

1. Photos of the daily water meter readings from both the 1" and 2" meters.
2. Daily Investigative Actions taken during the week outlining the:
 - a. Findings
 - b. Corrective Actions
 - c. Estimated Amount of Water Saved by Implementing Corrective Actions
 - d. Status of Corrective Actions (Percentage Completed)
 - e. Date Corrective Actions were Implemented and Completed

Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse representatives were notified that they have until September 5, 2024 to consistently have their water usage under their permitted water usage of 34,400 GPD; at which time, they are required to attend the September 5, 2024 PTMA meeting to discuss their final solution to remedy their permitted water usage violations. It shall be noted that the Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse permitted water usage of 34,400 GPD is a combined maximum total of water allowed from both their domestic service line (1" meter) and greenhouse service line (2" meter).

(Mr. Tony Paar, Mr. Matthew Casey, Ms. Nakia Moore and Mr. Stephen Zumbrun left the meeting at 8:10 p.m.)

After further discussion, Engineer Joseph Pfirman was directed to get cost estimates, lead-time and associated information on equipment needed to install a water valve that can be automatically closed when Bright Farms / PENN Greenhouse reaches their daily permitted water usage limit and then reopened the following day at 12:01 a.m. to start the process over again. Further discussion was tabled until the next PTMA meeting.

PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – August 1, 2024 minutes (cont.)

(Mr. Dan Karuna, Mr. Chris Fetter, and Mr. Jon Payne left the meeting at 8:29 p.m.)

ALTERNATE WELL #2 PROJECT:

Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire reported that the Alternate Well #2 test well is tentatively scheduled to be constructed on August 20, 2024. After a brief discussion, Chairman Thomas Ferry motioned to approve Swank and Son Well Drilling and Pump Company's Estimate #7640 dated July 31, 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$18,000.00 as presented with the stipulation that the well depth must be **260 feet** with 60 feet steel casing. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Isaac Ramer seconded the motion and unanimously approved. Further discussion was tabled until the next PTMA meeting.

WATER BOOSTER PUMP STATION REPAIR:

Operator Cody Cutler stated that he has nothing new to report on the Water Booster Pump Station Repair. Further discussion was tabled until the next PTMA meeting.

WELL #1 REPLACEMENT PUMP:

Chairman Thomas Ferry reported that the Well #1 Replacement pumps are scheduled to be delivered to Modern Pump on September 9, 2024. Further discussion was tabled until the next PTMA meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Thomas Ferry:

Chairman Thomas Ferry stated that he had nothing further to report.

VICE-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Pete DeWire:

Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire stated that he had nothing further to report.

INSPECTOR'S REPORT – Pete DeWire:

Gregory Avenue Road Subsidence:

Inspector Pete DeWire reported that he is in the process of coordinating the road subsidence repair over the sewer main on Gregory Avenue.

Approval to Attend PRWA Continuing Education Classes:

Inspector Pete DeWire reported that he needs 15 credits to maintain his wastewater license and requested that the Authority pay the registration fees for 3 PRWA classes that will enable him to earn the required credits. After a brief discussion, Chairman Thomas Ferry motioned to pay the registration fees totaling \$465.00 for Pete DeWire to attend three (3) PRWA continuing education classes later this year. Treasurer Michael Kuhns seconded the motion with Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire abstaining. MOTION PASSED.

OPERATOR'S REPORT – Cody Cutler:

The Authority members reviewed and discussed the Monthly Operating Reports submitted by PTMA Operator Cody N. Cutler. (See Attachment A)

PENN TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY – August 1, 2024 minutes (cont.)

TREASURER’S REPORT – Michael Kuhns:

Financial Reports / Authorization of Bill Payments:

The Authority members reviewed and discussed the financial reports. (See Attachment B and C) After a brief discussion, Secretary Gregory Aungst motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Report, Payments, and Timecards as presented. Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, Treasurer Michael Kuhns motioned to adjourn the August 1, 2024 PTMA meeting at 8:45 p.m. Vice-Chairman Pete DeWire seconded the motion and unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

***Susan L. Seebold, Administrative Secretary
Penn Township Municipal Authority***