

**BETHEL PARK MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
3100 Piney Fork Road
South Park, PA 15129-9001
Regular Meeting Minutes August 22, 2024**

1. Regular Meeting

a.) Vice Chairman Stone called the BPMA Regular Meeting for August 22, 2024 to order at 7:00 PM at 3100 Piney Fork Road, South Park Township, PA. 15129.

2. Roll Call

a.) Secretary Beaver called the roll. Present for roll call: Messrs.: Alan Stone, William Ruhl, Dave Brodnos, Bruce Beaver, and Tim Moury. Mr. Hannan and Mr. Cheberenchick were excused.

Also present: Mr. Joseph Gaydos, Solicitor, Gaydos Law PC; Mr. Dan Goodwin PE, of Wade Trim; Mr. Scott Dunn, Plant Supervisor and Mr. Jake Miller, Assistant Plant Supervisor; Ms. Abigail Corrigan, Bethel Park Sanitary Sewer Engineer; Mr. John Oakes, Bethel Park Council President; Ms. Kristen Denne, Bethel Park Municipal Manager; Mr. Joe Janosik, Bethel Park Council, Ward 5 and Mr. Jim Jenkins, Bethel Park Council, Ward 6.

3. Approval of Minutes

a.) Mr. Ruhl motioned to approve the Municipal Authority Regular Meeting Minutes of 08/ 08/2024. Mr. Beaver seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion passed 5-0.

4. Correspondence

a.) Mr. Beaver presented the following correspondence to the Board:

i. A survey from Michelle Miller, Quantitative Data Analyst, the Center for Rural PA. to the BPMA.

RE: Survey research of the PA. Wastewater Treatment Plants Solids Beneficial Use Disposal to be completed by the treatment plant manager or an employee of equivalent position. The purpose of the survey is to collect information about the management, disposal methods and costs associated with biosolids that result from wastewater treatments. The survey results will be used to update a previous research study done in 2007. Mr. Dunn will complete the survey by the October 15, 2024 due date.

ii. Mr. Stone stated that there is additional correspondence relating to the Headworks Project (HWP) which will be discussed later in the meeting.

5. Facility Discussion and Superintendent Report

a.) Mr. Dunn reported on the WWTP and LRPS:

i. The staff started all the major oil changes and moving all the equipment throughout the buildings beginning in the basement of the Administration Building.

ii. They repacked pumps which will need major service on the drives depending on the HWP scope and direction.

iii. They will need assistance from factory technicians on the pumps with timing issues between the drives and pumps. Mr. Dunn has contacted them for assistance.

iv. The centering brackets for the trickling filter have been sent to the powdering facility.

v. The check valve for the broken trickling filter valve is in stock. Mr. Dunn contacted JP Environmental for an estimate. JP Environmental will send an estimator tomorrow. Mr. Dunn anticipated the work to be a 1 day job for 2 people.

vi. Mr. Dunn did not yet receive the Health Department written report on the WWTP inspection.

- vii. The UV module has been completely rebuilt and is running without problems. Mr. Dunn borrowed bulbs from the McKeesport WWTP until he can restock them.
- viii. Homeland security is a placeholder until there are updates.
- ix. Mr. Dunn will contact Ms. Karen Fosbaugh, South Park Township Manager, about the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) meetings. He will also work with Ms. Denne and the fire departments on finalizing the ERP meetings.
- x. Mr. Dunn continues to work with ISC Safety Consultants and Training on updating the Risk Management Plan which is part of the NPDES Permit. The biggest change will be removing the requirements for the chemicals which are no longer used at the WWTP.
- xi. Mr. Dunn prepared the WWTP Capital Improvement Projects report and submitted it to the Municipality. He will provide copies to Board members who request a report.
- xii. Mr. Dunn has been working on the report prior to the HWP bid results. Therefore, the report has references to after the original HWP. Most of the projects are 5 years out with the exception of the 3 very old roofs at the Plant. He is currently getting quotes on replacing them.
- xiii. There will be no additional information on the Federal Grant Application through Pa. Representative Ms. Summer Lee's office until the State budget is passed.
- xiv. Mr. Dunn advised the Board that he would not be available to attend the September 12, 2024 BPMA meeting. Mr. Miller will present the Facilities/ Superintendent Report.
- xv. Mr. Moury asked if the amount of alum feed added to the WWTP water to control sludge is tracked. Mr. Dunn and Mr. Miller explained that the tracking is done through sampling.
- xvi. Mr. Moury suggested that the amount of alum added and what the readings are be tracked to establish a basis going forward. Mr. Dunn agreed to create a spreadsheet for alum tracking.
- xvii. Mr. Dunn stated that depending on the HWP direction, the WWTP may need to use ferric chloride instead of alum if the decision is to use chemicals.

6. Municipal Engineering Reports- South Park/Bethel Park

a.) Mr. Beaver reported on South Park's Projects:

- i. South Park Township will submit the documents for their 2024 CDBG work tomorrow. The 2023 CDBG for the Township was approved.
- ii. They are evaluating areas for rehab and relining projects in 2024 and working on the total footage for the project. the plan is to have the project out for bid by the end of 2024.
- iii. Dye tests and normal maintenance work with the SHACOG truck continue.
- iv. Mr. Moury asked if the Township does sump pump checks when dye testing. Mr. Beaver replied yes sump pumps are checked at dye testing.

b.) Ms. Corrigan reported on Bethel Park's Projects:

- i. Ms. Corrigan received the data from the cctv project for July 2024 from Robinson Pipe and is reviewing it.
- ii. The lining project has been on hold until Rotor Rooter could complete the digs necessary to resume the lining. The digs are complete and Jet Jack notified. Rotor Rooter has additional digging to do to complete their contract which they are working on now.
- iii. Ms. Corrigan is working on the design for the Consent Order Compliance Project. She will present the Project to the Bethel Park Council at their committee meeting 8-26-2024. She will be explaining the project in an effort to secure a financial commitment from Council to fund the project. She added that the deadline for the project report is at the end of September 2024 and stated that Bethel Park will not need permits for the work.
- iv. For the Saw Mill Run Consent Order Project, Ms. Corrigan will apply for GROW Grant funding. The deadline for a GROW Grant Funding Letter of Interest is the end of September 2024. She is reviewing the cctv data and will complete the necessary documents before the deadline.

- v. Ms. Corrigan is also working with the Bethel Park Finance Department on finalizing Consent Order budget items planning for 2025.
- vi. Ms. Corrigan will provide the Consent Order Compliance Report to the BPMA Board for review and approval before submitting it to the Allegheny County Health Department.

b.) South Park Clubhouse Issues

- i. Mr. Beaver reported that the State is working in the area to repair their inlet and some of their drainage pipe and swale leading to the drainage pipe.
- ii. Mr. Dunn stated that the pipe is open and the property owner dug out the portion of the pipe he is responsible for on his property. The water should now get to the creek and no longer flood the road. The property owner will also install the rip rap to reestablish the creek banks.
- iii. Mr. Beaver added that the work has not jeopardized the interceptor.

7. Wade Trim Professional Engineering Services Report

Mr. Goodwin reported on the following:

a.) General Report

- i. Mr. Goodwin reiterated that progress is being made with the issues at the Clubhouse.
- ii. Mr. Goodwin stated, as Ms. Corrigan explained, the Consent Order Alternative Analysis Report is due September 30, 2024.
- iii. Mr. Dunn reported on Stewart Road where the sewer line is impeded. He has been working with RIO Plumbing who has very good prices and does very good work. Mr. Dunn will look into whether Rio Plumbing can bid on the repair work and rip rap work on Stewart Road.
He added that the rip rap is under the storm water contract with Rotor Rooter so Rotor Rooter will also bid on the work.
- iv. Mr. Moury asked if the bid documents summary had been sent to the DEP as he requested at the last BPMA meeting. Mr. Goodwin responded that he called the Mr. Jim Vanek, DEP, and informed him of the financial numbers and intent of the Board. Mr. Moury stated that he felt that he clearly asked to have the bid documents sent. Mr. Goodwin apologized for the misunderstanding and will send the bid documents to the DEP and the individuals who were involved on the call.
- v. Ms. Denne asked about the financial cost total for the storm repairs contract with Rotor Rooter. Ms. Corrigan replied that if she recalls correctly the contract is for approximately \$1.4 million.
- vi. Ms. Denne and Mr. Dunn stated that change orders would need to be closely monitored to insure the change orders do not exceed the contract percentage limits. The Board discussed change order limits.

b.) Financial Discussion of HWP Financing

- i. *Letter from Ms. Denne-* Mr. Stone entered into the record a letter to Mr. James Hannan and the BPMA Board members from Ms. Kristen Denne, Municipal Manager, dated August 15, 2024. RE: PennVest Financing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
“Please let this correspondence serve as notice that the Municipal Council of Bethel Park has taken consensus on the future funding of debt financed through PennVest for the Piney Fork Wastewater Treatment Plant. They have decided they do not want to move forward with the Municipal guarantee for the project as currently presented at the cost and scope in the most recent public bid opening. Municipal Council appreciates your efforts and wishes to work with the Authority cooperatively in the future to plan for strategy to evaluate the plant and determine what capital needs are necessary to operate the facility in the manner conducive to the regulatory needs of and needs of the rate payers. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns.” Ms. Kristen Denne
- ii. Mr. Stone stated that the BPMA does not have the backing of Council to pursue the PennVest loan. He added that there are alternatives on the BPMA Agenda to consider. The BPMA can suspend all activities

related to closing the PennVest loan. The BPMA can also reject all the bids because they do not meet the financing parameters.

iii. *HWP Correspondence*- Mr. Stone reported there was correspondence from Mele Mele (M&M) challenging Mr. Gaydos's response to their request to have a bidder for the HWP disqualified.

iii. Mr. Gaydos explained to the Board his exchanges of correspondence with Mele and Mele. He advised M&M that as he receives information concerning the disputed applicant's qualifications he will share it with them. With the uncertainty about the direction of the HWP going forward, Mele and Mele's challenge may no longer be relevant.

iii. *HWP Options*- Mr. Stone stated that the Board will need to consider HWP options moving forward that are compliant with the DEP requirements and limited in cost and scope to be acceptable to Council within the BPMA Bond money.

iv. *Wade Trim Options*- Mr. Stone asked Mr. Goodwin to explain the options for a revised HWP plan Wade Trim prepared.

ii. Mr. Goodwin stated that since the HWP funding available will be limited to the funding that is in the 2020B Bond Fund, the HWP will be reduced to the minimum possible while continuing to meet the requirements of the NPDES Permit. This will include NPDES Permit phosphorous requirements which are effective in August 2026.

iii. Mr. Goodwin discussed the details of the 2 options for the work that Wade Trim proposes. These options for the project include what portions of the HWP that will not change, what will be eliminated, the consequences of eliminating portions of the project, a timeline for engineering redesign, the equipment which will be used, and the permitting process and requirements for the revised project.

v. Mr. Goodwin prepared a chart of the pre-purchased equipment and explained what equipment would be used in the revised project and what equipment would no longer be needed. Mr. Goodwin is working with the vendors on the equipment to longer needed.

vi. Mr. Goodwin explained the differences in the options. The major difference is that one option includes separating the two interceptors. The separation of the interceptors would allow for more accurate, representative sampling and bring the testing into compliance with DEP standards.

vii. Mr. Stone stressed the importance of communicating with the DEP to inform them of the status of the revised HWP, the financial limitations impacting the project, and the Board's ongoing commitment to a HWP which will meet DEP regulations and improve the operations of the WWTP for the benefit of the ratepayers.

viii. The Board discussed and commented on the revised HWP plans.

ix. Mr. Moury commented on the lack of preparation of any alternate plans for the project if funding was insufficient for the scope of the project. He expressed no confidence in Mr. Goodwin and Wade Trim to develop a revised plan for the HWP that will be within the budget and meet the needs for the WWTP. He added that that Council's unwillingness to fund the HWP at its current cost and scope was a rebuke of the BPMA Board and its decision making.

x. Mr. Goodwin responded by explaining that Wade Trim recommended the HWP plan because the work needs to be done to upgrade the Plant and meet current and future requirements.

xi. Mr. Beaver asked the Board to consider where to go from here with the HWP. Mr. Moury responded by recommending that the Board hire an engineer to review the WWTP and determine what is needed now instead of basing the HWP on a report completed in 2003.

xii. Ms. Denne expressed concern that there was no Optimization Study completed to determine what the Plant actually needed and justify the HWP plans for the HWP.

xiii. Mr. Brodnos commented that the Board needs to better communicate what the Plant requires to Bethel Park Council and the South Park Township Board of Supervisors to get their support for the project since the costs are shared proportionally.

xiv. Mr. Moury commented that the BPMA and elected community officials should establish 5 and 10 year

plans to prepare for future projects throughout the watersheds.

xv. Mr. Stone summarized some next steps. Mr. Goodwin will send the bid summary documents to the DEP and schedule a call with the DEP and the Board. Also, the Board will include on the next BPMA Meeting Agenda a motion for an outside peer review.

xvi. Mr. Gaydos advised the Board that he informed PennVest at a closing status meeting on Monday that there are ongoing discussions with the Municipality with the loan guarantees that have not been fully determined at this point.

8. New Business

a.) Mr. Stone advised the Board that there are 2 motions on the Agenda under New Business.

i. He read the first motion verbatim.

I move we approve the rejecting all the bids received July 31, 2024 for the following:

2021 WWTP Grit and Headworks Improvement Project

The Bethel Park Municipal Authority

Contract 1- General Construction

Contract 2- Electrical Work

Contract 3- Plumbing/ HVAC Work

ii. The Board discussed the motion. Mr. Gaydos commented that the bids had a time scope of 120 days to accept or reject the bids. The Board decided to move forward with a vote.

Roll call passed 4-1 to reject the bids with Mr. Brodnos voting no.

iii. The Board discussed planning a joint meeting with the elected officials after the Plant review and a HWP plan determined.

iv. The BPMA Chairman or Vice Chairman letter informing he elected officials that the Board rejected the bids and will go to a peer review to determine what the Plant needs within the financial budget. The elected officials will be invited to the next Board meeting to participate in the discussions.

v. Mr. Stone read the second motion under New Business:

I motion to temporarily suspend all activities related to satisfying the requirements for closing of the pending PennVest Loan that pertains to the proposed BPMA grit and Headworks Removal Project.

vi. Mr. Gaydos explained the motion was created was with the understanding that the bids have a larger time frame in which they can be acted upon. This allows for an opportunity for finding middle ground or for a modification to be made.

vii. The Board discussed the options regarding the PennVest Loan.

vii. Mr. Ruhl motioned to approve the amended motion which removed temporarily. The motion died for lack of a second to move the motion forward.

viii. PennVest will be notified that the BPMA will not move forward to close the Loan.

ix. Mr. Stone brought up Mr. Brodnos' motion to have the solicitor investigate the procedure to dissolve the Bethel Park Municipal Authority. The Board discussed the motion.

x. Mr. Gaydos explained the Authority cannot be dissolved until the debt is retired.

xi. After the discussion, Mr. Brodnos withdrew his motion.

b.) Old Business

i. There is no old business.

9. Requisitions

a.) Mr. Goodwin presented the General Fund Requisitions for August 2024:

i. General Fund A: The payees are: Board members, Gaydos Law, PC and secretarial services.

The August 2024 General Fund Requisition A TOTAL is \$3,616.69.

Motion: Mr. Ruhl motioned to approve. Mr. Moury seconded. Roll call was unanimous. Motion passed 5-0.

ii. General Fund B The payees are: Wade Trim.

The August 2024 General Fund Requisition B TOTAL is 10,909.68.

Mr. Ruhl motioned to approve. Mr. Beaver seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Moury voting no because he requests a more detailed description of the expenses.

b.) Mr. Goodwin presented Construction Fund Requisition #43 for August 2024 Series 2020 B \$29,570,000.00

Account # 486348 The payees are

Wade Trim

2021 WWTP Grit & Headworks Improve. Project-

\$ 11, 666.55

Bid Phase Svcs. Billing 06/29/2024– 07/30/2024 MBP 203701H/

Invoice 5007024

TOTAL

\$11,666.55

Mr. Beaver motioned to approve. Mr. Ruhl seconded. Motion passed 4-1 with Mr. Moury voting no


10. Solicitor's Report

Mr. Gaydos had nothing additional to report.

11. Adjournment

i. With no further business to conduct, Mr. Ruhl motioned to adjourn. Voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.

Date

9-12-24 

Bruce Beaver, Secretary