

NORTH HUNTINGDON TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY  
 WORK SESSION, OCTOBER 3, 2012, 5:30 P.M.  
 YOUGHIOGHENY WATER POLLUTION CONTROL PLANT  
 4222 TURNER VALLEY ROAD, NORTH HUNTINGDON, PA 15642

**Roll Call:**

Andrew Blenko	- Present	Kate Petrosky, Manager	- Present
Timothy J. Hondal	- Absent	Charles J. Gilbert, System Supt.	- Absent
Joseph M. Korenic, Jr.	- Present	Mike Branthoover, Finance Director	- Absent
William H. Miller	- Present	Chris Sanner, Asst. System Supt.	- Present
Edward P. Shields	- Absent	Donald J. Snyder, Solicitor	- Present
		David A. Coldren, KLH Engineers	- Present

The Work Session of the North Huntingdon Township Municipal Authority was called to order at 6:05 P.M.

Mr. Blenko reported that the Board visited portions of the Plant prior to the meeting.

**Citizen's Input**

No citizens were present.

**Manager's Report**

There were two billing issues to present to the Board on behalf of customers who weren't able to attend the meeting. Thomas Kmetz purchased property on Bethel Road and objects to the practice of billing when a home is vacant. Mr. Kmetz sent a letter to the Board explaining that he is from Florida, and is trying to move but can only come back occasionally. It was brought to his attention that he is responsible for a quarterly past due bill for sewage that is not being used. The first thing he did when he took ownership was remove the commode and sink so no sewage has been used. Mr. Kmetz has gone through the disconnect procedure. He's asking the Board to waive the back charges and is appealing Mrs. Petrosky's decision.

Shawn Lichtenfels from Clairmont Street has a past due balance and has been shut off in the past. Because he's the only person living in the home, and because he's low income, he believes the Board should reduce his rate. He explained to the office staff that the electric and gas companies offer a low income program but our Authority doesn't. Mrs. Petrosky explained to him that the Authority is nonprofit. An electric company can build that rate reduction into their rate schedule and charge it against every other customer and we cannot do that. Mr. Lichtenfels works in the evening and says that he's learning impaired and cannot write to the Board.

The Board discussed both customer issues and feel they must adhere to the Authority's established policy.

The Authority budgeted \$10,000 to replace the copier in the Administrative Office. The price is \$9,780 which is actually lower than the COSTARS price. They do not want the old copier, which we own, so it will probably go down to the Plant.

The Authority's Workers Compensation coverage was due for renewal on October 1, 2012. Two quotes were obtained from HDH. We were able to save \$10,000 by going with Housing and Redevelopment Exchange versus our current carrier, Companion Property and Casualty. They have taken a position that they are putting a 25% surcharge on all their municipal clients with workers compensation. The Authority has an excellent modification rate of .80 which is below the norm. Their quote of \$23,000 is a significant savings. They have a good history with a B+ rating which is considered excellent.

MEIT is the Authority's health insurance broker. Mike Branthoover checked with them to see if there was a way to upgrade the vision plan for management at management's expense. The current plan permits exams and new glasses or contacts every two years. For an additional \$5.13 a month, we would be able to go every year. MEIT permits the Authority to have more than one plan, but everyone within a specific unit (Union and/or Management) would have to agree to it. The coverage can begin November 1 if the Board approves it. All four management employees have agreed to cover the additional cost.

First Niagara is applying for a sign permit and they want to install the sign in our sanitary sewer easement. The easement is a 50-foot easement with our line in the middle. They have it placed practically on top of the line. They are willing to move it and would put it over on the boundary line of the easement. The Board discussed it but couldn't recall why there needed to be that much of an easement. Attorney Snyder suggested allowing them to encroach on the right-of-way on the condition if we ever have to get in there they will remove the sign at their expense.

### **Solicitor's Report**

Attorney Snyder brought up Brugnoli and Schlegel to MAWC as persistent problems. We have our hands tied with Brugnoli because if we shut the water off, we shut off the firehall. Chris Kerr is the Executive Director at MAWC and he is going to look into it.

### **Engineer's Report**

The Board decided last month to have the Authority crew make the repairs to the Atwood Estates sewer line without having the written report. The One Call has been applied for and that will be done next week or the week after. There are four new homes being constructed right now in that plan.

Mr. Blenko brought up the second phase of that plan where there are three lots that front on Barnes Lake Road. In order to sewer them there was to be a sewer line brought off and the line would run over towards Barnes Lake Road and then up through the back yards to pick up those three homes. There is a fourth lot that is owned by Hergenroder. Cendric, the new developer, told Mr. Blenko that he's not extending the sewer line to benefit Hergenroder. He's extending the sewer

line to the nearest property line of his own lot. If Hergenroder wants to extend it to his lot, that's his business.

Mrs. Petrosky said if Cendric is going to extend the line, he will have to do a new Developer's Agreement. There was further discussion about whether Cendric should have to run sewage to the rest of the plan.

Mr. Coldren reported that a bid opening was held last Thursday for the CDBG Lateral Repairs, Phase IV. There seems to be less and less interest as we proceed through the phases. We're ending up with contractors that are local plumbers who aren't very well known to us. Previous contractors have not been rebidding and claim to have lost money. Flemming Walker was the second lowest bidder and they are a well known larger contractor. Hometown will be providing references. This project is being funded through the Community Development Block Grant program. The County is ready and waiting for us to schedule the preconstruction meeting.

Design continues on the Country Hills Phase III main line replacement. The goal is to have a preliminary layout by October 15. At that time we would be ready to have a meeting with the residents to show them the alignment. Then the easement agreements will be prepared. A lot of this work is in the roadway so we'll have less easements to get but extra restoration costs.

All of the sewer lines have been installed by Advanced on Wayne Drive. The trench is done and the binder is installed. The overlay will be done next week. They've installed less binder and will do full-width overlay. About two weeks ago we were approached by the Township and they wanted a scratch coat installed to smooth the transition between the trench paving and the rest of the roadway. The cost to install that is \$10,500. Dave's initial thought is for the Authority, the Township and the contractor to each pay one-third of that cost. The Township says they don't have money allocated for that. The contractor is willing to help although he says he's already losing money. The Board decided to make a formal request to the Township.


The plans and specs are being finalized for the VFD replacement at Long Run. There is concern by the time we get this advertised and get the bids opened, awarded and start construction, the drives may be shot. We'd like to consider this an emergency where we go out, select a contractor and forgo the bidding process. Attorney Snyder said KLH would need to write a letter stating the variable frequency drives are in a state of deterioration and failure is imminent. If there were a failure, it would have consequences to the environment.

#### **Assistant System Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Sanner presented a quote in the amount of \$12,455 for GIS equipment. \$13,000 was budgeted for this project. There is \$2,000 for training but there is enough remaining in the training budget to cover that.

**Adjournment**

The Work Session adjourned at 7:00 PM.

  
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William H. Miller, Secretary