

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
January 25, 2022**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:20 p.m. by Chairman Keith Endy. Present in addition to Mr. Endy were Committee members Gene Gabel, and Barry Christman.

Also in attendance were Lori Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM, and interested citizens.

Mr. Endy called for public comment on the agenda; no comments were forthcoming.

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 21, 2021 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. Christman, and approved.

Inframark Report – Water and Sewer

Mr. Schoenly reviewed the operator's report for December 2021. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report

Mr. Newhard reviewed the engineers' report for the month of December 2021. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

- **Madison/Rhoads Avenue Sewer Replacement Engineering Cost Proposal** – Mr. Newhard reviewed with the members the cost estimate for Design and Construction Phase of the project. The total projected engineering cost is \$73,000. Mr. Newhard noted that the engineering cost for the construction phase can be reduced if the Borough chooses to have SSM perform part time construction inspection. A decision on this would be made when the contract is awarded.
- **Water/Sewer Rate Increase Projections** – Mr. Newhard reviewed the water and sewer rate increase analysis he prepared. Following review and discussion, the committee recommends Option 3 water rate increase to generate an additional \$100,000 in annual revenue; and Option 3 sewer rate increase to generate an additional \$80,000 in annual revenue. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Finance Committee of Borough Council.
- **Colebrookdale RR Expansion/Boyertown Sewer Force Main** – Mr. Newhard reviewed with the committee his recommendation concerning the Colebrookdale RR's Expansion Plan, which will essentially be on top of the existing Sewer Force Main. Mr. Newhard noted that there would be no effective method to excavate or perform maintenance on the force main in close proximity to the proposed track. For that reason SSM recommends relocation of the force main outside of the proposed rail ROW and abandoning the existing main in place to address this issue. Following discussion, the committee recommended this matter be listed on the agenda of the February 7th meeting of Borough Council.

- **Aqua** – Mr. Newhard discussed with the committee a meeting requested by Aqua to discuss an interconnect with the Boyertown Water Authority. Aqua personnel expressed an interest in an interconnect for emergency purposes and also the possibility of purchasing 500 GPD from the Authority. Mr. Newhard reviewed our current Water Allocation Permit and Production capabilities. Mr. Newhard stated that based on his analysis it is possible to sell Aqua 500k GPD. Mr. Newhard also noted that we need up to 200k GPD for the upcoming four large subdivisions that are currently under review by the Water Authority. This would put us close to our daily limit of 2 MGD at the water treatment plant. Further analysis and discussion will be held on this subject. All members of Borough Council will be encouraged to attend the next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee to participate in this conversation and decision on how to proceed.

Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer

Trout Run Dam Spillway – Mrs. Loder advised the committee that Mr. Boyer, of ARM Group, has indicated that H & K has agreed to replace the sealant as part of the warrant. In addition, Mr. Boyer noted that the waterstop representative recommends using the product that he originally specified. Mr. Boyer further noted that use of this product is temperature sensitive.

New Business – Water and Sewer

Fairhill Inc. Request for Right of Way – Pine Road Property - Mrs. Loder introduced to the committee Mr. Harlen Snyder, owner of a 12 acre parcel of land in Earl Township on Pine Road, adjacent to land owned by the Borough. Mr. Snyder requests a ROW across Borough owned property to provide access to his property from Pine Road. Mr. Snyder stated that the ideal ROW would be 22’ feet in width. Discussion was held on the request and all agreed that if the Borough were to agree to grant the request the ROW should follow the boundary line of the Borough property. The committee had no objection to granting the ROW request; and recommended the matter be listed on the agenda of the February 7th meeting of Council for consideration by Council as a whole.

Public Comments

There being no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. was made by Mr. Endy and seconded by Mr. Gabel. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee is scheduled on Tuesday, February 22nd, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder
Borough Secretary