

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**MINUTES**  
**August 22, 2023**

The meeting of the Public Utilities Committee was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Keith Endy. Present in addition to Mr. Endy were committee members Gene Gabel, Barry Christman, and ex-officio member Frank Deery. Mr. Gabel left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Also in attendance were Councilmen Charles Heller and Jeffrey Cascino; Lorraine Carnes, Mayor; Patricia Loder, Borough Manager; Bruce Hansley, Street Supervisor; Ralph Schoenly and Alex Eidle, Inframark, LLC; Jason Newhard, SSM, Inc.; and Daryl Peck, Concord Public Finance.

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023 meeting of the committee was made by Mr. Endy, seconded by Mr. Gabel, and approved.

**Inframark Report – Water and Sewer**

Mr. Schoenly reviewed the operator's report for July 2023. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Mr. Schoenly advised the committee of another water main break caused by water hammer when a local fire department was using a hydrant by Walmart in Colebrookdale Township. This is the fourth incident of this nature within the current budget year. The cost for repair of the first three incidents is \$70,000. Discussion was held on fire company accountability and further measures which could be taken to prevent future incidents. Further discussions will be held with the Fire Chief on this subject.

**Budget Contract Year #29-2023/2024** – Mr. Schoenly reviewed Contract Year #29 budget with the committee reflecting a 9.65% increase over the current years' budget. Budget increase is due to increased cost of utilities, chemicals and maintenance. Following discussion, the committee recommended listing approval of the budget on the agenda of the September 5<sup>th</sup>, meeting of Council.

**Spotts, Stevens & McCoy Report**

Mr. Newhard reviewed the engineers' report for August 2023. The complete report is on file in the administrative office.

Mr. Newhard reviewed with the committee proposals for Bedrock Depth Thickness Mapping to obtain profiles of East 4<sup>th</sup> Street and North Madison Street. Rettew's proposal for seismic refraction survey is \$5,870/Day; Advanced Geological Services proposal cost is \$6,900. Mr. Newhard recommended accepting Rettew's proposal; the committee agreed.

**Project Financing** – Mr. Daryl Peck, of Concord Public Finance, reviewed with the committee a Preliminary Plan for financing of Sanitary Sewer Capital Projects including the Madison/Rhoads Sewer Main, Sewer Plant Generator, and South Reading Avenue Pump Station Upgrade for a total financing package of \$2,300,000. The proposal reflects use of the Berks County ARPA Grant in the amount of \$415,922. It was noted that a decision by the Commonwealth Financing Authority on our grant application to the Small Water and Sewer Program Grant for \$500,000 toward the cost of the South Reading Avenue Pump Station Upgrades will be made in mid-September. The Borough will also apply for a grant through the Category Four Facilities Local Share Program and the Statewide Local Share Program for replacement of the Sewer Plant Generator at a cost of \$569,000. If awarded, those grant funds would reduce the financing needed. Discussion was held on timing for advertising the Request for Proposals. Mr. Newhard will advertise the Sewer Main Project for receipt of bids the third week of November. Mr. Peck will receive proposals for financing within the same time frame. Council authorization to advertise for bids for the Sewer Main Project and the Capital Projects Financing at the October meeting of Council.

Discussion was held on completing the design and applying for the DEP Permit for the Pump Station Upgrades. Mr. Newhard will provide a cost proposal for engineering services for completion of the design plans for the South Reading Avenue Pump Station Upgrade.

#### **Unfinished Business – Water and Sewer**

There was no unfinished business to discuss.

#### **New Business – Water and Sewer**

There was no new business to discuss.

#### **Public Comment**

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

There being no further business to conduct a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. was made by Mr. Endy, second by Mr. Christman. The next meeting of the Public Utilities Committee will be held on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Loder  
Borough Manager