

Stewartstown Borough Sewer & Water Authority Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 21st, 2024

Members present: Lisa Mohan, Linda Miller, Nathan Cook, Dave O’Neill, Tom Casteel

Others present: Engineer Jason Brenneman, Engineer, Jason Lytle, Solicitor John Baranski, Sewer & Water Supervisor Ira Walker, Jr., Recording Secretary Stacy Myers

Visitors: Catherine Nathewitch, Nathan Emberson, Randy Cook, Kevin Brunicke

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m.
2. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mr. O’Neill made a motion to approve the January 17th, 2024 Meeting Minutes; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Consent Agenda**—it was the consensus of the Board to approve the following expenses:
 - **Water funds**—Water bills & payroll dated Jan. 17th thru Feb. 20th, 2024, totaling \$126,958.56.
 - **Sewer funds**—Sewer bills & payroll dated Jan. 17th thru Feb. 20th, 2024, totaling \$205,479.69.
3. **Public Comment**—the following were present to request a time extension for their mandatory connection to public water.
 - **Catherine Nathewitch (19074 Barrens Rd. South)** had some questions for the Board:
 - **She’s lived there 26 years, why does she have to connect to public water now?** *During a recent inventory of both residential and commercial accounts & users of our water/sewer system, it was found that Catherine’s home, as well as approx. 5-6 others are within the 150’ of public services & required to connect. Her house is already connected to public sewer but is also required to connect to public water.*
 - **What’s the Act 537 Plan & what are the exceptions to having to connect?** *The Act 537 Plan is a PADEP sewage regulated program relating to public sewer and the management of sewer facilities. Hopewell Township is covered by Act 537 and its requirements, so that was the necessity for township residents to hook to sewer. Hopewell Township & Stewartstown Borough also have mandatory connection ordinances regarding public water connections. The 3 exceptions/conditions of a 2nd Class Township Code (statewide code) are listed below & all 3 **must be met** to avoid the requirement of connection.*
 - Must have an alternative supply of safe drinking water.
 - A public water system is within 150’ of a principle structure and must have been in place prior to July 4th, 2008.
 - At no time up until July 4th, 2008, was there an ordinance requiring a property to connect to the system.
 - Although Ms. Nathewitch meets the first 2 conditions, the township’s mandatory connection ordinance was in place in 2005.
 - **Her well water is pure, clean & good.** *She doesn’t really want to connect to water that is treated with chemicals. Board member Mr. O’Neill said, most likely her well water also has trace amounts of chemicals in it from the ground. Although not dangerous levels, it’s rare that ground water is perfectly clean. Stewartstown’s water also has trace amounts of chemicals, but it’s tested regularly to make sure it’s not dangerous. He believes there’s a benefit to the chemicals; for example, chlorine kills bacteria in water that can be harmful.*
 - **Her financial situation isn’t conducive to paying the \$3,216 tapping fee & a plumber to make the connection and asked for an extension from the 3/1/24 deadline to make the connection.** *In the past, repayment agreements had been*

offered to other property owners requiring connection. The Board agrees to extend a 5-year, low interest plan to spread the \$3,216.72 fee into monthly payments, if Ms. Nathewitch & other residents want to take advantage of it.

- **What is the cost for a plumber to run the necessary piping?** *Ira gave a rough estimate of \$1,800-\$2,000, although it depends on how much digging and/or other variables would be involved. The property owners will be able to keep their wells for outside usage only (watering flowers, washing cars, etc.) but inspections will be conducted to ensure there's no connection between the well & the public water supply.*
 - **The existing March 1st, 2024 connection deadline is a bad time of year for plumbers to dig & run the necessary piping, plus it doesn't give the homeowners a lot of time.** *The Board agreed. Mrs. Miller made a motion to extend the connection deadline to June 30th, 2024; Mr. O'Neill seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. This time extension gives property owners a chance to get quotes from plumbers and, if any problems/concerns arise, they can contact Stacy at the Borough Office.*
 - **Nathan Emberson (19003 Barrens Rd. South)** returned his signed Repayment Agreement & water permit application tonight and is also requesting an extension of the 3/1/24 connection deadline. The Board will sign the Agreement after tonight's meeting.
 - **Randy Cook (33 College Ave.)** was present to request an extension of the connection deadline as well.
 - **Letters to confirm the time extension and the Repayment Agreement** (for those requesting it) will be mailed this week.
 - **Kevin Brunicke, 5 Ecker Avenue**—expressed his interest in serving on the Sewer & Water Authority in Gordon Wisnom, Sr.'s vacancy. He has been in the Stewartstown area since 1998, has been an electrical contractor most of his life, and currently supervises the Maintenance Department of the York Fairgrounds. Borough Council will appoint someone to the vacancy at their March 4th meeting.
4. **Solicitor's Report**—Atty. Baranski reported:
- **The Patterson Drive resident** who was charged with Nonessential Use of Water during the drought had pled guilty & has paid his fines, in excess of \$600.
 - **Saubel's Market & Bailey Springs Plaza**—the District Magistrate is handling the situation involving these two commercial users required to purchase additional EDU's for their usage. If they plead guilty to not complying to the Authority's Rules & Regulations, they may pay fines, but they would still need to purchase the necessary additional EDU's. More on this as it occurs.
 - **Parking Easement Agreement** involving Gordon Wisnom, Jr.'s property & allowing sewer/water staff to park on his property—3 attempts were made to ask him to sign. Ira will reach out to Mr. Wisnom to ask him to sign at the Borough Office.
 - **Rules & Regulations**—these have now been updated & emailed to the Board for their review & comments for a final draft at the March meeting.
 - **31 College Avenue (Vanover residence)**—this property is also within the area required to connect to public water. 32 College Avenue was also mentioned as a possible required connection, as they're not on public water OR sewer. Mr. O'Neill made a motion authorizing Atty. Baranski to send a letter of a June 30th, 2024 mandatory connection to public water to 31 College Avenue & 32 College, if required; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. It was discovered later in the meeting that 32 College is not within the 150' required distance (the principle structure) to connect.

5. **Sewer/Water Supervisor Report**—Ira Walker, Jr. submitted his report and the following expenses for action:

- Lab supplies were purchased from USA Bluebook at a cost of \$1,953.26.
- Supplies were purchased from Harbor Freight at a cost of \$95.35.
- Supplies were purchased from APR at a cost of \$17.07.
- A replacement probe for the pocket pro PH meter was purchased from Hach at a cost of \$142.59.
- Valve box tops & risers were purchased from Core & Main at a cost of \$1,086.78.
- Miscellaneous parts for small engine repair/maintenance were purchased from Tri County Sales & Service at a cost of \$471.87.
- Two proximity sensors for the UV system were purchased from DeNora at a cost of \$323.99.
- A manhole riser was purchased from EJ USA at a cost of \$608.78.
- Three thermos-sensors for the Bioset system were purchased from Schwing Bioset at a cost of \$974.18.
- 125 wet tons of biosolids were loaded in manure spreaders for Mike McGinnis (local farmer) at a cost of \$3,750.
- Miscellaneous parts for the sewer stations were purchased from Hydra-Numatic at a cost of \$2,611.06.
- Keith Trahan has been registered for a water class hosted by PRWA for a cost of \$150.
- Tyler Robinson has been registered for a mandatory class (Securing Water/WW Facilities) hosted by Mike Nelson for a cost of \$320.
- Annual PRWA (Pennsylvania Rural Water Association) dues, \$837.
- Two cutter kits & two seal kits for Sewer #6 were purchased from Control Systems 21 at a cost of \$477.50.
- Powerhouse Generator installed a new transfer switch for the generator at Sewer #2 for a cost of \$3,180.47.
- Annual Drinking Water fee was paid to PA DEP for \$6,500.
- Control Systems 21 completed work on the chlorine analyzer at the York Water pit for a cost of \$274.
- Kudos to Felicia Markline, our water meter coordinator who has scheduled & completed 125 water meter changeouts (to new Kamstrup meters) since January 1st, 2024.

Mr. O'Neill made a motion to approve the above expenses; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

6. **GMB Engineering Report**—Jason Lytle reported:

- **Task 003/006—Operational Support**—in progress
 - **Control Building/Garage Roof**—2-year warranty expires 9/14/2024, so staff should coordinate a maintenance inspection for spring.
 - **Landfill Pretreatment**—a meeting will be scheduled between landfill reps, Jason B., Jason L. & Ira.
 - **Pumping Station Odor/H2S mitigation**—the aeration unit was switched from PS #11 to PS #3; however, it still isn't managing the odor. Staff will continue to monitor.
 - **Bioset Operation Service**—in progress
 - Coordination & a possible conference call can be scheduled with Synagro as they have options to help with Class A disposal (if needed).
- **Task 04B—Control Building & Dewatering System Construction**—in progress
 - Proposed modifications—Control/Discharge Circulation Modifications—
 - COSTARS quotes for Schwing Bioset (\$10,470) & Borger (\$6,036.70) were distributed, as well as the submitted quote from AIS contractors (\$40,554.92)

for a total of \$57,061.62. Jason reviewed these and revised AIS's quote to \$34,369.

- Discharge modification to include the recirculation line on discharge—budget numbers were received from Schwing, including:
 - Recirculation line--\$12,000
 - Made modification to cone (from 4" discharge to 3")--\$15,000
 - Upgrading the 300# reactor--\$215,000

Schwing recommended to review recirculation to help with operations. Mr. Casteel made a motion to proceed with the recirculation line at the \$12,000 cost above and authorize Jason to gather more information on the other two modifications for possible future use. Mr. O'Neill seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- Additional Ventilation in Garage area—AIS submitted proposal of \$38,312.32, but Jason got an updated review amount of \$34,893.66.
- Existing Gasoline Tank Conversion to Diesel—nozzle has been replaced.
- Mr. Casteel made a motion authorizing Jason L. to work with the contractor(s) to process the following change orders; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Change Order #1** regarding Control Integrate Modification
 - **Change Order #2** regarding Additional Ventilation
- **Task 005—Treatment Improvement Design**—in progress
 - Working on getting draft designs done on the site/building layout. Next couple weeks, discussion to be held with Ira & any interested Authority members.

7. **Engineer's Report**—Jason Brenneman reported:

- **North Barrens Rd. Sewer Extension & Dollar General Sewer Replacement**—easement agreements for N. Barrens Rd. (with Eureka Fire & Paul Miller Mobile Homes) have been signed by the property owners. Once Authority signs the agreements, this project can be put out for bid.
- **York Water Agreement/New Well Site**—a meeting was held with Paul Miller regarding the possibility of a new well site on his property; however, he has no interest in pursuing this. Jason reported PA Geode contains records of all wells (permitted by PA DEP), along with the yield rates, locations, etc. During his research, Jason found that all wells in the area that were 30 gallons per minute are either already owned by the Authority or are way outside of the service area (except Millers Mobile Home Park). The geologist questioned why the Authority is looking for a new well site when they have a York Water connection. Does the Authority want to request an increase from York Water?
Mr. O'Neill suggested visiting the old well site on the farm off Barrens Rd. North (near Mayberry development). Jason will research to try & find coordinates of the well if some Board members & staff want to visit the site. Board also suggested checking with the landfill for information on contaminated wells from years ago.
- **Headworks Building**—Jason is working with Jason L. to get the Land Development Plan submitted to Hopewell Township.
- **High Street Water Main Replacement**—project was put out for bid this week for a bid award at the March meeting.

8. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy Myers reported:

- **Resolution 2024-01**—increasing Water rates as of 1/1/2024 (as approved at 11/15/23 Authority meeting)
- **Resolution 2024-02**—increasing Sewer rates as of 1/1/2024 (as approved at 11/15/23 Authority meeting)

- Mr. O'Neill made a motion to adopt both Resolution 2024-01 and Resolution 2024-02; Mrs. Miller seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Connections Report**—1 new connection (at KSV) since January meeting.
 - **19045 Barrens Rd. South**—the one house needing to connect to public water does not have a service line installed to the property line (required for them to connect). Ira believes the work can be done in-house if the property is accessible with the backhoe. Mr. O'Neill made a motion to move forward with the installation; Mr. Casteel seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Notice will be sent to the property owner that this work will be done.
 - **Gordon Wisnom, Sr's vacancy**—there are 3 interested candidates to finish the term, ending 12/31/2025. Borough Council will appoint someone at their March 4th meeting.
9. **Other business**—Mr. O'Neill reported there is training available to Authority members through Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, if interested. There's an in-person session in Camp Hill on March 21st, and a virtual session on April 11th. Mr. O'Neill suggested the Authority cover travel expenses for those attending in-person.
 10. **Adjournment**—With no further business before the Board, Mr. O'Neill made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:20pm Mr. Casteel seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary