

Stewartstown Borough Sewer & Water Authority
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, January 18th, 2023

Members present: Kenton Kurtz, Gordon Wisnom, Sr., Nathan Cook, Jason Roberts, Tom Casteel

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

Visitors:

Jason Boyles, J.A. Myers Homes

Matt Goodwin, Wachs

Dave Elwell

1. The meeting was called to order @ 7:00p.m.
2. **General Business**
 - **Approval of Meeting Minutes**—Mr. Wisnom made a motion to approve the December 21st, 2022 Meeting Minutes; Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
 - **Consent Agenda**—it was the consensus of the Board to approve the following expenses:
 - **Sewer**—Sewer bills & payroll dated December 20th, 2022 to January 17th, 2023, totaling \$86,158.88.
 - **Water**—Water bills & payroll dated December 20th, 2022 to January 17th, 2023, totaling \$32,700.42.
3. **Public Comment/Visitors**—the following were present to address the Board:
 - **Matt Goodwin from E.H. Wachs** was present to discuss a piece of machinery that he had demonstrated for Ira, staff & a few Board members a couple months ago. Matt, who has been with Wachs for 15 years, said the company has been in business since 1883, specializing in valve maintenance. Matt distributed a picture of the unit that was demonstrated, along with a quote. The unit is a valve turner that exercises valves with the least amount of torque required while also recording data which it saves to a computer. This is helpful when comparing what type of work was done to each particular valve. The unit includes a telescopic valve key that can adjust from 1-foot to 13-feet. It also has on-board diagnostics, so the braking system, the hydraulics system, the electrical system & the motor board are all able to be diagnosed through a diagnostic tool within the controller of the unit. The unit also has a vacuum system & water on board (& a wand) which is helpful when digging & washing equipment. Wachs operates a full maintenance facility in New Jersey, so they warranty all their products. They also offer extended warranties, up to four (4) years (one-year increments) that covers a unit, bumper to bumper. The unit comes with its own software & updates are covered indefinitely, as well as full support from Wachs, whenever necessary. Wachs has a partnership with Ferguson (in PA), should municipalities want to purchase through COSTARS for the equipment. COSTARS won't change the price from what Matt is quoting tonight.
Discussion was held on the operating procedures of the unit. Matt said municipalities can incorporate their GIS systems & existing valve ID's into the unit's system. Stewartstown is currently uploading their sewer & water mapping system, as well as valve information into Diamondmaps, which can be loaded into the Wachs unit.
Matt said references & names of municipalities using Wachs' products are readily available. They have many, with American Waters, Veolia, & Aqua America being just a few. The trailer for this unit is made in Lincolnshire, Illinois & everything else is assembled in the United States.

Should the Board approve this tonight, Matt said delivery timeframe is 12-16 weeks, possibly earlier. Payment options can be discussed with payments being split up over 120 days, if necessary, per budgetary reasons.

Former discussion was held between Ira and New Freedom about a possible joint purchase of this unit; however, Ira stated Shrewsbury is now interested in purchasing another piece of equipment.

- **Jason Boyles from J.A. Myers Homes** was present to bring the Board up to date on the service line repairs in the Mayberry development. All the repairs are now complete & of the 135 service lines, crews found 5 plugs that were not tapped correctly, 2 service lines with stones in them, 1 service line had a kink in it & there were 5 services lines without adequate bedding. Ira & Stewartstown staff had been onsite many times during the repairs & Ira said he was very happy with the work that was done. There is a possibility of other plugs being unaccounted for. The Board & Ira thanked Jason for his timely response to get the low-water pressure issues resolved.

4. **Solicitor's Report**—John Baranski reported:

- He sent a letter to Hopewell Township regarding the failing septic system at 17855 Barrens Rd., North that stated any enforcement action regarding that will need to come from the Township.
- The new homeowners of 25 High Street are directed to call John regarding the covered curb stop (in the sidewalk) which presumably was covered by the previous homeowner. Per the Water Rules & Regs, curb stops must be accessible to the Authority/staff. Ira had spoken to the new homeowner about this issue and, although he wasn't happy about acquiring this problem through the purchase of the home, he understands it needs to be fixed.

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

- Control Systems 21 visited to address an electrical issue with the belt press, cost \$564.
- Oil filters were purchased from Gordon's Service at a cost of \$393.
- The lower-than-usual level at the water towers on 1/9/2023 had staff (& residents) looking for leaks. A couple active leaks were found; however, the other problem was with the transducer at the water tower site. Wierman's Plumbing assisted by re-tapping the line for a cost of \$116.90.
- Miscellaneous supplies were purchased from Grainger at a cost of \$348.36.
- Various supplies were purchased from True Value at a cost of \$109.67.
- 12 loads of biosolids were hauled to the Wilt Farm at a cost of \$2,700.
- ID badges for the field/office staff were purchased from ID Answers & Solutions at a cost of \$135.
- Business cards for the field staff were ordered from Power Printing for a cost of \$231.
- An invoice for \$2,111.38 was received from Carter Pump for the field tech visit last month.
- An invoice for \$677.80 was received from Control Systems 21 for wiring/electrical work done on the influent sampler at the WWTP.
- An invoice for \$460 was received from Control Systems 21 for troubleshooting on the SCADA/Communications system.
- An invoice for \$1,038.95 was received from Gettle for a motor rebuild for the thickener tank.
- An invoice for \$670 was received from Hach for the annual maintenance contract of the spectrophotometer (lab instrument at WWTP).
- An invoice for \$625 was received from PRWA for assistance on the GIS mapping of the sewer system.
- Staff has been enrolled in miscellaneous training classes through PRWA at a cost of \$600.
- Six (6) cases of disposable gloves were purchased from Share Corp at a cost of \$376.75.

- Six (6) special locks were purchased from L/B Water at a cost of 718.65. These will be installed in certain places to deter homeowners from turning on their water after being shut off for unpaid bills.
- The controller at the York Water pit needs to be replaced as it is now obsolete. The cost for the new unit is \$1,160 + labor.
- Control Systems 21 updated the SCADA text messaging system to 4G (or higher) at a cost of \$1,672.50 + labor.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the invoice for Gordon's Service at a cost of \$393; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried with Mr. Wisnom abstaining.

Mr. Roberts made a motion to approve the remaining expenses listed above; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- **Lead & Copper Rule**—Ira explained that DEP & EPA are pushing for testing to be done as a result of the Flint, Michigan water crisis. All homes built before 1991 will be subject to the Authority/staff confirming what pipe material is installed on both the street side AND house side of the curb stop, as well as what type of material is going into the basement. As staff replaces water meters, the type of piping coming into the basement is being noted, so a portion of homes on the system are already complete. And the newer developments in the Borough (& Township) won't be subjected to the testing because of their age. Ira also stated almost every main within Stewartstown's distribution system has been replaced with plastic (w/plastic services). That's good news also & work that has already been done, but it still must be documented. Where those replacements are not documented, they need to be dug up to confirm what pipe material is installed, same with determining the material on the house-side of curb stops. If the material is unknown, they will need to be dug up. Ira is confident the majority of them will be either copper or plastic. He suspects some galvanized may be found & highly doubts any lead will be found; however, this is a possibility. Years ago, with galvanized piping, it was common to use lead "goose necks", so these must be treated as lead & be replaced. Ira doesn't foresee a lot of homes being affected, but it will still be a big job to research, dig & confirm the pipe material.

Ira said the piece of equipment from Wachs (discussed earlier) will be a huge advantage, should the Board decide to move forward with the purchase because of its excavating capability. EPA is requiring digging to be 18" deep to confirm the pipe material, so that equipment will cut down on manpower & time.

Phase 1 of this lead/copper project is to create an inventory list that would include every house & its address on our system, along with the material type at every property. This list is due to EPA by October 2024.

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

- **Task 001**—WWTP Assessment—grant funding for the SBR & UV Improvements is pending
- **Task 001**—SBR Retrieval Units—all work on this is out for bid
- **Task 003**—Operational Support
 - Skids for Chemical Feed Pumps—estimated delivery is this month; will coordinate installation with Ira.
 - Control Building/Garage Roof—it's been approx. 6 months since installation. Ira reports no issues/problems.
 - Pumping Station Odor/H2S mitigation—still pursuing a 2nd unit for Pumping Station #11 (previously approved)
 - Entry Gates/Fencing—Jason has a building permit application to submit to Hopewell Township for this.
 - Application requires a \$250 fee—Mr. Wisnom made a motion authorizing Chairman Kurtz to sign the application & to submit the \$250 permit fee; Mr. Roberts seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

- Jason presented a proposal to increase GMB's hourly upset limit which includes the \$5,500 task separated for the entry gate & fence (approved in December). Mr. Wisnom made a motion to approve the additional upset of \$5,500; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.
- **Task 004—Control Building & Dewatering System Improvements**
 - Staff incorporated modifications (based on the Upper Moreland site visit) which involved moving the polymer storage. Coordination with mechanical/electrical & structural is being finished.
 - Jason met with Hopewell Township Board of Supervisors on January 3rd to discuss what is required for the building permit.
 - PENNVEST submission—deadline is February 1st—much of the necessary documentation is complete, others is being completed to make the deadline. Advertisement for the bid package will be pending PENNVEST approval.
 - Updated COSTARS scope of supply & price for the sludge equipment was received. Total \$622,600 (paperwork regarding the proposal was distributed to Board). Schwing proposal includes:
 - Dewatering Screw Press, Conveyors, New Control Panel--\$499,500
 - Upgrade of Existing Bioset Control Panel--\$83,600
 - (2) Rotary Lobe Pumps--\$39,500
 - Jason also submitted a proposal for Bidding & Construction Phase Services for Board consideration. Bidding would not begin until approval of PENNVEST funding. Construction Phase Services includes only part-time inspection & is proposed to take nine (9) months.

Because the lead time for the Screw Press (from the time of submitting a proposal) is 54-66 weeks, Mr. Wisnom made a motion to proceed with ordering the Screw Press with the caveat that GMB coordinates with PENNVEST that no deposit is required. Mr. Casteel seconded. All were in favor; motion carried.

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

- **Forest Road Subdivision**—a month or two ago, Jason & Ira met with the developer's engineer to review this plan in which 48 units are being proposed. The units will be a mix of single-family homes & duplexes. 49 EDU's are being requested for the development; 48 for the proposed development + 1 for the existing home in the area that is experiencing a possible failing septic system. As part of the sewer design, they need to get a planning module approved by DEP prior to getting started on a Pumpstation design. Mr. Wisnom made a motion authorizing Chairman Kurtz to sign the DEP planning module paperwork; Mr. Cook seconded. All were in favor; motion carried. Jason is unsure whether or not the plan has gone to Hopewell Township for review, but the planning module is a 6-9 month process. Jason stated he did note the issue of the development being close to the dump/trash area because the developer will need to certify 'clean fill'. If they're doing grading, etc. in the area, it may be an issue, but the developer didn't seem deterred by it, & Mr. Wisnom said the development will be north of the dump/trash area that has been there for many, many years.
- **Clearview Excavating/Chantilear Court**—when Clearview was digging in this area (Jan 17th & 18th) to make repairs on the settled pavement, they hit water at 6' deep. When they stuck a piece of rebar in the hole, they were able to stick it completely down without hitting solid material. When the line was televised, everything seemed fine with it, but Jason said it's a soupy mess around the pipe now. Because of this issue, paving did not happen today & solutions were discussed. It's only a small settlement area & Jason believes groundwater or underground spring is entering from a nearby property & making its way into the sewer trench. Clearview submitted a price to dig & expose all the pipe, install a trench plug to stop the water & install an under-drainpipe too. Their quote for that work was \$34,300. One of

the reasons it's so costly is that the drain must be 9' deep because the sewer line is 9' deep. Clearview was only going to dig down **to** the pipe, not **expose** the pipe, but if they don't have a solid base at 9', then more work would be required, such as pulling the pipe out, replacing it & digging down to solid material.

And the work that was done to date on Chantleair Court was included in the \$34,300 quote. Another possible solution is to do a full-depth reclamation, digging down 12" & adding cement, but due to the underground water, this may still not correct the problem.

This area had been repaired approx. 8 years ago. If the original quote of \$8,700 (previously approved by the Board) would allow for another 8 years or so, we could look at other, possibly more permanent solutions at that time. The Board would rather not spend \$34,300 on something that may not correct the problem, so they will continue with the \$8,700 repair, as previously approved.

Dave Elwell mentioned Windsor Borough is pursuing grant opportunities through the Chesapeake Bay Watershed Program because they have natural springs & a number of drain water issues in their area. This could possibly be an avenue Stewartstown may want to pursue also.

- **SRBC Consumptive Use Mitigation Grant**—this was submitted on January 16th, 2023, for the leak detection meters. It won't be known until July 2023 whether or not we'll be awarded funding.
 - **Landfill winter leachate pumping**—a few Board members believe we should increase the rate charged to YCSWA for the leachate pumping which is currently \$9.46/1,000 gallons. Both Jason Brenneman & Jason Lytle believe an increase wouldn't be out of line because of new PFOS requirements soon to be imposed by the EPA. The agreement (dated 1986) will be emailed to Atty. Baranski for his review so more discussion can be held next month.
8. **Chairman's Report**—no report
 9. **Treasurer's Report**—Stacy reported 1 new connection (Mayberry) since last meeting.
 10. **Other Business**
 - Mr. Casteel made a motion to move forward with the purchase of the Wachs Valve Exerciser at a cost of \$88,865, which he believes will be a valuable asset when digging up service lines to confirm the pipe material per the lead/copper ruling. Mr. Wisnom seconded. Ira said \$50,000 was budgeted for this item in 2023, but since New Freedom is no longer interested in partnering to purchase the machine, financing options may need to be discussed with Matt Goodwin. So that staff can review the 2023 Budget to see where the other \$39,000 can come from, the Board tabled this motion until the February meeting.
 - FYI, the old water truck is on MuniBid & currently up to \$5,100. The old sewer cameras are also for sale on MuniBid.
 11. **Adjournment**—With no further business before the Board, Mr. Wisnom made a motion to adjourn the meeting @ 8:50p.m. Mr. Roberts seconded. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stacy Myers, Recording Secretary