

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY  
103 LOCUST STREET, PO BOX 37  
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316  
December 1, 2016

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority was held December 1, 2016 at 103 Locust Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, and was conducted by Chairman Gerald L. Mummert. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 PM.

**Members Present:** Gerald L. Mummert; Charles Krall; Harold Lau; and Ron Weidner.

**Also Present:** Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Hannelore Furst, Secretary; Deepthi Kalyanam of Buchart-Horn; Nathan Boyer and Roberta Teal.

**Absent:** Rick Saxon and John Scrivens

**Minutes:** *A motion was made by Harold Lau to accept the minutes of November 3, 2016 as written; with a second by Ron Weidner. Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.*

**Payment of Bills:** All members received a copy of the bills and receipts for November 2016, for a total of \$29,668.84 from the operational funds. *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to approve the paying of the bills for November as submitted with a second by Harold Lau. Motion carried.*

**Payment of December 2016 bills** with the Chairman's or Treasurer's authorization: *A motion was made by Charles Krall to pay the December 2016 bills; with a second by Ron Weidner. Motion carried.*

**Public/Guest Comment:** None

**Engineer's Report:** Deepthi reported she has received confirmation of 160 EDU's from Reading Township engineer; William Hill. She checked the Chapter 94 reports to make sure the Authority has the capacity for those EDU's. Deepthi also checked with the manufacturer of the SBR tanks(Aqua-Aerobics) for capacity and the tanks are designed to take additional flow. There is capacity available. Our permit would have to be revised from .243 mgd to .3 mgd. DEP will be advised that we have a letter from the manufacturer the tank can handle this change without effecting our effluent limits. Ron Weidner asked what is the maximum capacity of the current sewer plant before any upgrades would be required. Deepthi is waiting on a response from the manufacturer on that question. Solicitor Battersby asked Deepthi to use the Chapter 94 reports to calculate what the tapping/connection fee would be if we lowered the 300 gallons per day/per EDU. The connection fee has to be justified; you cannot pick a figure and state the is your connection fee. The 300 gallons per day was used in the Act 537 Plan.

Reading Township has septic tanks and Chairman Mummert wanted to know how we were going to get their daily usage. Deepthi suggested getting the information from Reading Township's Act 537 Plan. The average number for a household is 3.5 persons per household. It wouldn't matter to the Authority what each house uses because we will be bulk billing Reading Township and the township will bill the residents. It was suggested Deepthi should come up with an itemized tapping fee. Chairman Mummert mentioned all the calculation info was presented back in 2013 to Reading Township and they were going to connect the 30 homes in the Conewago Park area; they just needed to get the money. Mr. Mummert also stated he spoke with Bethany Sweger of DEP concerning Conewago Park never connecting to our sewer system and Ms. Sweger mentioned DEP dropped the ball, and thought Reading Township had connected to our system. They continued the discussion on the tapping fees, and whether they could be lowered. The sewer usage rate the East Berlin Borough residents are currently paying is \$9.00 per thousand gallons and everyone that would connect to our system would pay the same. The Board also discussed where Laughman's Bottom and Conewago Park would be connecting to our sewer system.

Deepthi stated the Buttercup Farms 205 EDU's are available since they were in the Act 537 Plan and there is no intentions of the land being developed soon. Solicitor Battersby questioned Ron Weidner of Hamilton Township about when the sub-division plan approved for Buttercup Farms. Ron Weidner stated it was not approved or recorded; it was never finished.

Deepthi would like the Authority to investigate where the excessive flow is coming into the sewer plant. The guys will have to inspect homes for the sump pump and downspouts entering the sewer lines. Harold Lau suggested the Authority do the smoke test, and Deepthi will find out the pricing. Charles Krall stated a comprehensive inspection program on downspouts and sump pumps is needed. Solicitor Battersby was asked to compose a letter to the residents for this project.

Deepthi asked about the project engineering fees for the Reading Township project. So far, there are \$2800.00 for this project. Solicitor Battersby stated to hold until more information is collected.

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby stated he sent the letter to the Widdowson's and has not heard from them. He stated to wait until the end of the year and if nothing is resolved, then we will proceed in the normal fashion to collect on the bill.

Treasurer's Report: Harold Lau reported there are 33 delinquent accounts for a total of \$13,806.83. Mr. Lau presented an updated draft 2017 budget. Additional research was done on the sewer budget. Mr. Lau stated the sewer increase would be effective with the April, May, June 2017 billing. The increase is as follows: Up to 5,000 gallons--\$10.00 per thousand gallons; 5001 to 10,000 gallons--\$10.25 per thousand gallons; 10,001 to 15,000 gallons--\$10.50 per thousand gallons; and 15,001 and over--\$10.75 per thousand gallons. This represents an average of 5.16% increase in the overall water and sewer rates. Mr. Lau also presented a list of expenses for the 2017 budget, with a change in the man hole and hydrant expenses. Nathan Boyer explained the valve and hydrant work that Gingerich Excavating gave an estimate for of \$6,025.00, which would reduce the expenses for the water budget. Solicitor Battersby questioned what kind of warranty or guarantee Gingerich has on his work?

Charles Krall questioned the safety of the manholes, and the personnel going into manholes. He explained the safety issue of the methane gas overpowering the person. He suggested getting equipment to ventilate the manhole before entering them; and adding this to the budget. *A motion was made by Charles Krall to approve the preliminary budget for final vote at the January meeting; with a second Ron Weidner; to carry over for January meeting.*

Mr. Lau estimated an increase in income of approximately \$61,000 with the 130 Reading Township connections.

Secretary's Report: Hanna Furst presented a handout of the 2017 meeting dates. Hanna received an email from Ben Etherton of APPI Energy about potential cost reduction on the electricity rates, consensus was to wait until a later date to check on other options for energy reduction rates.

Unfinished Business: Charles Krall reported on his attendance at the SRBC workshop he attended on November 9, 2016. He highly recommended checking the two web sites for the power point presentation of the work shop. He mentioned it a very informative and interesting.

Solicitor Battersby commented on lead content in the water. He explained he represents a plumbing company; and they told him that the copper pipes are soldered with lead and over time the water starts to get into the connection and lead goes thru the pipes. Lead cannot be eliminated completely.

New Business: None

Operator's Report:

Nathan Boyer – Nathan stated everything is fine.

John Scrivens – Absent

Correspondence:

- Email from Ben Etherton of APPI Energy about potential cost reduction on the electricity rates.
- Also received an article from the Gettysburg Times about Gettysburg Municipal Authority rate increase and the Central Penn Business Journal had an article on the region could see a 9% rate increase on water and sewer bills.

There being no further business, *Charles Krall made a motion to adjourn the meeting; with a second by Ron Weidner. Motion carried.* Meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM. Next meeting will be held January 5, 2017 at 103 Locust Street at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Hannelore B. Furst, Secretary EBAJA