

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY  
103 LOCUST STREET, PO BOX 37  
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316  
February 2, 2017

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority was held February 2, 2017 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; Rick Saxon; Harold Lau; and Ron Weidner.

**Also Present:** Hannelore Furst, Secretary; Deepthi Kalyanam of Buchart-Horn; Andrew Dehoff of SRBC; John Scrivens; Nathan Boyer; Roberta Teal; and Rod Walter of Navigate Power.

**Minutes:** *A motion was made by Charles Krall to accept the minutes of January 5, 2017 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 January 2017 for a total of \$34,563.85 from the operational fund. *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to approve the paying of the bills for January with a second by Charles Krall. Motion carried.*

**Public/Guest Comment:** Rod Walter of Navigate Power spoke about the current electricity rates, and extending our contract. Our present rate is 6.28 cent for kilowatt hour; which will expire the end of November 2017. The pricing for Direct Energy in November is as follows: 12 month-6.622 cents; 18 month-6.802 cents; 24 month-6.452 cents and 27 month-6.396 cents. Natural gas dictates the price of electricity; which has jumped from \$1.80 per btu's to \$3.20 per btu's. The consensus of the Board is to wait until the summer and see how the pricing compares.

Andrew Dehoff of SRBC, reported Hanna has uploaded the final Metering & Groundwater Elevation Monitoring Plan to the SRBC Monitoring & Data Website.

**Engineer's Report:** Deepthi reported she has started working on the annual Chapter 94 Report and the Chapter 110 Water Report.

**Solicitor's Report:** Solicitor Battersby read a letter he drafted to be sent to the homeowners asking their assistance in reducing storm water infiltration into the sewer treatment plant. He also cited Section 10 of Ordinance # 2-2010; no owner of property shall be permitted to discharge into the wastewater system any storm water drainage, sump pump discharge, ground water, subsurface drainage or roof runoff. It was decided to add that inspections of the sump pumps will be taking place in the near future.

Solicitor Battersby also reported he has not heard anything concerning Reading Township. Chairman Mummert mentioned he had heard Reading Township supervisors met with DEP, and we probably won't hear from them until April or May.

**Treasurer's Report:** Harold Lau reported there are 107 delinquent accounts for a total of \$31,886.94. Mr. Lau presented Resolution # 2017-1 Sewer Rate increase; which was part of 2017 Budget. Mr. Lau stated the sewer increase would be effective with the April, May, June 2017 billing. The increase is as follows for residential and commercial accounts: 1 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. The capital expense fees are the same at \$82 for residential and \$94 for commercial. *A motion was made by Charles Krall to accept Resolution #2017-1, Sewer rate increase; with a second by Ron Weidner. By roll call vote all members voted YES. Motion carried.*

**Secretary's Report:** Hanna Furst reported the owners of the property at 148 Branch Circle paid their current water & sewer bill, and will be making payments for the previous disputed billing.

Another problem we had was with East Berlin Park 106 Trust, David Krulack, is asking for exoneration from the water and sewer bill because of an underground leak from the street to the house. The leak was 49,310 gallons. The secretary made 3 or more calls to get this leak fixed. The tenant paid \$106 which leaves \$986.03 due. It was suggested that since the

water did not go to the sewer to be treated there should be some leniency; but all of the water should be paid for. The consensus of the board is the owner has to pay for all the water, and average out the sewer charge.

Hanna presented Smith, Elliott and Kern & Co. engagement letter for the 2016 Audit; for a price of \$7,100; which is the second year in our 3 year contract.

Unfinished Business: Chairman Mummert contacted Gingerich Excavating & Landscaping, LLC and found they give a 1 year warranty on their work. *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to accept Gingerich's contract as needed at Nathan discretion; with a second by Charles Krall.* There was a brief discussion and Nathan stated Gingerich has the equipment and expertise to get the job done in a timely manner. *Motion carried.*

Chairman Mummert brought up the SRBC bill, in which Solicitor Battersby requested the authority not pay yet, Solicitor Battersby stated he has a meeting later this month with Senator Alloway to discuss this issue. He would like to further discuss with Senator Alloway before he recommends paying the bill.

New Business: The secretary is checking health insurances rates for a 2 person policy for the guys, which is due to renew .

Operator's Report:

Nathan Boyer – No water leaks

John Scrivens – Everything is good.

Correspondence: None

There being no further business, *Ron Weidner made a motion to adjourn the meeting; with a second by Harold Lau. Motion carried.* Meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM. Next meeting will be held March 2, 2017 at 103 Locust Street at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Hannelore B. Furst, Secretary EBAJA