

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
103 LOCUST STREET, PO BOX 37
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316
October 6, 2016

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority was held October 6, 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; Ron Weidner; and Rick Saxon.

Also Present: Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Hannelore Furst, Secretary; Deepthi Kalyanam of Buchart-Horn; Nathan Boyer; John Scrivens; Roberta Teal; Stephanie Widdowson; John Van Kirk and his wife; and Andrew Dehoff of SRBC.

Minutes: *A motion was made by Charles Krall to accept the minutes of September 1, 2016 as written; with a second by Harold Lau. Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.*

Payment of Bills: All members received a copy of the bills and receipts for September 2016, the bills totaled \$15,398.20 from the operational funds. *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to approve the paying of the bills for September with a second by Rick Saxon. Motion carried.*

Public/Guest Comment: John Van Kirk of 145 Branch Circle had concerns about his recent water bill. He stated he spoke with Chairman Mummert that morning and didn't understand how York County have lower water bills. He mention last year at this time his bill was \$250.00 and it is now \$452.00 and is only him and his wife with an occasional visitor; how can it jump that high. Chairman Mummert stated there was a rate increase in water, effective the 2nd quarter billing and everyone was mailed a postcard informing them of the increase. Chairman Mummert stated Mr. Van Kirk does have a swimming pool; and there could have been evaporation and you could have used water to bring the water level back up since it was an extremely hot summer. Mr. Van Kirk stated they did not. John Scrivens and Ron Weidner stated there could be a leak or the toilet flapper are not sealing correctly and explained to them how to find out if they have a leak or running water from a bad flapper. John also explained you cannot compare your usage to another couple because everyone's habits are different. Roberta Teal explained when she had a leak and her bill was over \$500.00 and she lives alone. She checked her toilets, and found she had a bad flapper, and fixed it, this quarter her bill was \$173.00.

Stephanie Widdowson stated her bill was \$174.00 last quarter and is now \$882.92. Chairman Mummert asked if she turned her meter cards in, and was told no. She stated the meter cards don't matter, because we have received payments from her. She stated the cards, the payments and the \$800 bill are completely separate things. Solicitor Battersby stated Ms. Widdowson problem is separate from the Van Kirk's; Ms. Widdowson's problem was failure to report usage on the card. He also read aloud the Ordinance 1-2010, Appendix A #3 concerning collection of water rents. Mr. Saxon stated her bill would not be \$800, each quarter; that bill was just catching them up for the 3 years of usage, that was not recorded. There was a question about people moving in to a home, the procedure of obtaining the meter reading. It was explained a settlement reading is done for the previous owner before settlement. Ms. Widdowson asked about the payment plan and the 10% late fee. It was explained that if there is a payment plan, then it is more than likely the total bill would not be paid by the due date and then there would be the added 10% late fee. The due date is 10/28/16, and a late fee is imposed after the due date, and that is 10% of the bill. Mrs. Van Kirk asked who is the Board's higher Authority. The Borough Council appoints the Board members for the Authority. Mr. Lau suggested Ms. Widdowson pay the amount similar to her previous estimated bills by the due date and make a payment plan, we could waive the late fee. There was further discussion and the Board will make a decision on the late fee. Solicitor Battersby suggested Ms. Widdowson speak with her husband and give us a proposal that fits in her budget to catch up the bill.

Engineer's Report: Deepthi reported that she has submitted the information that SRBC requested yesterday from the meeting with SRBC on September 22, 2016; and present Chairman Mummert with a copy. She also has a proposal for the work on the Meter and Monitoring plan that SRBC requested for \$6,200; which some of this has been completed. Ron Weidner questioned how often this will be done. Ron wanted to know what we are testing now; we just did extensive testing a year ago. Andrew Dehoff stated the Aquifer testing is done. He mentioned the meter and monitoring plan and offered assistance a few months ago and worked with Buchart-Horn, on this. He now states it was not necessary to have the engineer

work on the metering and monitoring plan. The entire region is required to report quarterly meter reading to SRBC; which we already are doing. Deepthi stated this report she has been requested to do was to compile pump information, meters, and transducers and a letter describing the data processing of all the wells. This is a onetime thing. The SRBC had all the information in the report that was sent last year. Nathan stated that we were grandfathered in for the last 40 years, now they want actual reading. The transducers were in place for awhile. It was stated DEP does not access whether we overdraw the aquifers or not. Andrew Dehoff stated SRBC uses the information for the condition before the water is pumped and water pumping, you get comments back that you are not overdrawing the wells; and the wells are going to meet your demands. If another well in the area is developed it could impact our wells and SRBC would have the information on our wells and how it effects our wells with this monitoring in place. Deepthi explained that SRBC final plan is not requiring the engineer to review then the total cost could be reduced. *On a motion by Ron Weidner to table the proposal until next month when a new figure is presented; with a second by Harold Lau. Motion carried.*

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby mentioned any liens we have on file will need to be checked by him before they can be satisfied.

Treasurer's Report: Harold Lau reported there are 2 accounts that will be presented to the District Justice for collection. As of September 30, 2016 there were 6 delinquent accounts for a total of \$4,012.08. Mr. Lau also stated he is working on the 2017 budget. Nathan mention he would like man hole covers/inserts in the budget.

Secretary's Report: Hanna Furst presented a list of the delinquent accounts to the Board for September, which was before this quarters current water and sewer billing. Ms. Furst also stated that she and Chairman Mummert called the references of the companies for the water tower inspections. There was a brief discussion on the last time it was painted or cleaned. Chairman Mummert mention Mike Thoman (Past Borough Manager) may have that information.

Unfinished Business: Chairman Mummert mentioned he called Doug DeClerk about the water tower inspections and he uses Mumford-Bjorkman Associates, Inc. (MBA). MBA quotes is for \$3,500. The Board decided they would hire MBA if the price quoted would remain the same if the work is done in the spring. It was mention the tank on Abbottstown Street holds about 150,000 gallons and the tank on Fish & Game Road hold about 238,000 gallons. There was a brief discussion on the last time it was painted or cleaned. Chairman Mummert mention he spoke with Mike Thoman (Past Borough Manager) and the last time anything was done to the water tank was approximately 25 years ago. *On a motion by Harold Lau he recommends MBA to do the water tower inspection if the price quoted of \$3,500 is the same price in the spring; with a second by Charles Krall. Motion carried.*

Chairman Mummert received phone call from Barry Sweger of DEP concerning Reading Township and the Conewago Park connection to our sewer system. There are 30 homes in the Conewago Park area and he would like to set up a meeting within 30 days with the EBAJA Board, Reading Township Board and DEP at the Authority office, to discuss the connections. Chairman Mummert will set up a work session on October 13, 2016 at 1 PM; at the Authority Office to discuss the Board's options.

New Business:

Secretary mentioned she received an email about Energy Choice program; board received a copy and the Board is not interested in changing anything. She also received a call from Ken Meeks of American Power & Gas, stating he would send information on the program; he did not send an email outline about the program like he stated he would. The Board is not interested.

Operator's Report:

Nathan Boyer –Nathan stated the Kline's was in to clean the lift station at the wastewater treatment plant.

He had also planned to fix the hydrant on Park Road; as mention in last month's minutes; but there was a leak, that took precedence.

John Scrivens – John mentioned the leak at 205 and 206 East King Street, that Kinsley Construction Co. helped fix by getting the pipe from one side of the street to the other without cutting up the entire street. We did not receive a bill for the work and John suggested sending them a thank you card. They would like to be considered for other work in the future.

Correspondence:

- Another quote from Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group-Info sent to Board members by email.
- Received a email from Barry Sweger-DEP concerning Reading Twp-Conewago Park connection to East Berlin WWTP
- Email about Energy Choice program
- Call from Ken Meeks of American Power & Gas -did not send an email outline program. 1-800-210-9010 x6392
- Letter from SRBC in Violation for not Annual Compliance/Monitoring fee.

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 8:35 PM. Next meeting will be held November 3, 2016 at 103 Locust Street at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannelore B. Furst, Secretary EBAJA