

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
103 LOCUST STREET / PO BOX 37
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316

APRIL 6, 2023

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board was held April 6, 2023 at 103 Locust St., East Berlin, PA. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Krall. Chairman Krall opened the meeting at 7pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

Members Present: C. Krall, R. Weidner, W. Staub, R. Teal, G. Green

Members Absent: H. Lau, Treasurer

Also Present: Solicitor Battersby, Diana Young, Melissa Earp, John Scrivens,

Guests:

Agenda: A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the agenda for April 6, 2023 board meeting as written, with a second by R. Weidner. **Motion carried to accept the agenda as written.**

Minutes: A motion was made by R. Weidner to accept the minutes of March 2, 2023 as written, with a second by G. Green. **Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.**

Payment of Bills: All members received a list of payables for March 2023, totaling **\$93,027.10** from the Operational funds (including \$32,080.50 to repair leaks found by the leak detection company, \$22,529.65 for sludge removal, \$7398.00 for annual office rent). A motion was made by R. Teal to pay the March 2023 bills, with a second from W. Staub. Motion carried.

Public / Guest Comment: Cathy Dehaven of 324 Locust St. appealed to the board regarding water service termination 4/5/2023 due to a leak in the service line on the property. The leak has not been repaired due to a lack of funds. In an effort to reduce the price of the job, and since the job will be supervised and inspected by the excavator and EBAJA operator, she was granted permission to do the plumbing herself (with assistance from handyman). No alternate plan was provided or offered.

Engineer's Report:

- Completed and uploaded the Chapter 94 Report. It has been accepted by PADEP.
- Completed the Annual Water Report.
- Re: the grant application for the state, since the total project cannot exceed \$500,000.00, the control panel upgrade was removed and the project was separated into two phases, Phase 1 would be the SBR Blowers/Diffusers and Phase 2 would be the Digester Blowers and diffusers.

Solicitor's Report:

- EBAJA will be receiving a grant in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 from Adams Response and Recovery Fund (ARRF) for WWTP expansion and Rte 194 sewer system extension. More information will follow. Meanwhile, a review of the grant application will be conducted. Once more information is received regarding the grant, a timeline schedule will need to be created, along with bidding packages, and permit applications.
- The State will make their decisions regarding the state grants sometime this summer.

Treasurer's Report:

- Open Balance: \$221,183.82
- Resolution 1-2023 regarding previously approved rate increase of .50 per thousand gallons was presented for signature. A motion was made by R. Weidner to accept Resolution 1-2023 as written, with a second by W. Staub. Chairman asked for a roll call vote. All members voted in the affirmative. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

- 1st QTR bills were mailed out last week.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Operator's Report:

- Replaced fire hydrant on Jacobs St
- Will begin flushing hydrants the week of April 24
- Will start exercising water main shut-off valves by the end of the month.
- Service to 324 Locust St. has been shut-off due to a water leak on the property.

Correspondence:

- email from Harrisburg St. resident asking the following questions (and answers provided):
 1. Why does the sewer system need to be extended, that was to be able to handle areas of Reading township and 400 homes in Hamilton township. (inaccurate information in the question, suggested resident attend a board meeting for clarification and answers).
 2. Suggested EBAJA relocate to the borough office. (resident was advised to address this question to the borough, as EBAJA is not involved in borough decisions regarding their office space).
 3. Why is there a person on the board from Hamilton township? (Hamilton Township has a representative on the board because EBAJA is a joint authority between East Berlin Borough and Hamilton Township).
- received a letter and publication from the PA Municipal Authority Association re: the legislative proposals to repeal or amend Act 12 of 2016. Should Act 12 be repealed, private investor utility companies would be permitted to ramp up their acquisitions. The publication suggests local municipalities should have action plans and strategies in place to prevent predatory pricing and private acquisitions that ultimately cost consumers more money.

Executive Session: n/a

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Weidner and seconded by G. Green. **Motion carried**. Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Krall at 7:50 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held **May 4, 2023** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 pm.