

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
103 Locust Street
East Berlin, PA 17316

February 3, 2011

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority was held on February 3, 2011 at 103 Locust Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, and was conducted by Vice Chairman John O'Brien. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 PM.

Members Present: Vice Chairman John O'Brien; Robert Clayton; Charles Krall and David Richards.

Absent: Chairman Gerald L. Mummert

Also Present: Secretary, Hannelore Furst; Treasurer, Charles Eisenhart; Solicitor Matthew Battersby; Bruce Hulshizer of Buchart-Horn; David Woodward; Charles Philips, John Scrivens; Nathan Boyer; John Schlaline and Craig Paskoski, Evening Sun reporter.

A discussion was held concerning the minutes of the special meeting of December 13, 2010, and Mr. Richards moved to strike the paragraph that did not pertain to personnel issues, with a second by Robert Clayton. Solicitor Battersby reminded the Board that the meeting of December 13, 2010 was advertised as a personnel meeting and nothing else was to be discussed. ***Motion carried to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of December 13, 2010, as corrected.***

A motion was made by David Richards to accept the minutes of January 6, 2011 as corrected, to strike "by unanimous vote" on the appointment of Solicitor and appointment of Treasurer. Also, Mr. Richards moved to add to the last paragraph of the Engineer's Report after the words: replacing old hydrants- **add** "immediate replacement of two inoperative shut off valves was required to repair Well #2." with a second by Robert Clayton. ***Motion carried.***

A motion was made by Robert Clayton to accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of January 24, 2011 as written; with a second by David Richards. ***Motion carried.***

Payment of Bills: All members received a copy of the bills and receipts for January, which totaled \$32,441.32. *David Richards moved to pay the bills for January; with a second by Robert Clayton.* There was discussion of the lobbying expenses. Charles Eisenhart explained about the \$150,000.00 that was borrowed from the water fund and deposited to the sewer fund and the expenses that were paid from the sewer fund borrowed money to repay the water fund. ***Motion carried.*** Mr. Richards and Mr. Eisenhart were both going to speak with the auditor about this accounting method.

Engineer's Report: Bruce Hulshizer of Buchart-Horn Inc. reported on the videoing of well 2 and the step testing of well 4; which will be done this coming week. He also mentioned that the pre construction meeting is scheduled for next week. A letter was sent to DEP that the sewer plant has been initiated. Bruce had a final change order for Garden Spot Electric for a credit of \$7,411.00. *Charles Krall made a motion to accept the change order for the credit of \$7,411.00; with a second by David Richards.* ***Motion carried.***

Solicitor's Report: Solicitor Battersby reported he reviewed the bid and the bond for the Groundwater Rule and everything is acceptable.

Treasurer's Report: Charles Eisenhart presented Resolution #2011-1 to increase the quarterly water rents to \$14.00 capital expense fee and \$6.00 per 1000 gallons of water consumption, effective with April's

billing. *David Richards made the motion to accept Resolution #2011-1; with a second by Charles Krall.*

Motion carried.

Mr. Eisenhart also reported as of January 27, 2011; there were 132 outstanding accounts. There was a discussion on the banks collecting the billing, the cutoff date and time. Mr. Eisenhart recommends eliminating the banks collecting the rents. The appendix A of the ordinance was read, and it was suggested the solicitor review the payment system. *Robert Clayton made the motion for Solicitor Battersby to review the payment system for water and sewer; with a second by Charles Krall. Motion carried.*

The secretary reported on a Webnair through PA Rural Water, she attended on delinquent accounts. They would do all the calling and setting up payment plans; their fee is 25% of what is owed. You would have to adopt an ordinance to assess and increase your penalties, so the fees are passed on to the customers.

New Business: There was a discussion on the water leak on East King Street, and the employee's lack of wearing protective gear. It was questioned whether there was any breathing apparatus or waders.

Old Business: Charles Krall reported they interviewed two people for the part time position.

David Richards mentioned the possible sewer rate increase and his handout. John O'Brien stated he would need more time to go over Mr. Richard's information. Mr. Richards stated he will be giving a talk on water and sewer rates at the Community Center. Charles Krall asked if this was going to be a positive or negative presentation. Mr. Richards stated it will be the two options that the Authority has to decide on. Charles Krall suggested Mr. Richards not hold the public meeting until the Authority knows exactly what the rate structures are themselves. The consensus was to table the sewer rate increase until the next meeting.

Robert Clayton questioned if there was any response from Reading Township. He was told there hasn't been any response yet.

There was a discussion about Schoolhouse Lane residents and sending the letters concerning connecting the water and sewer lines for those residents. *A motion was made by Robert Clayton to send letters setting up a payment plan with 50% down on issuance of permit, and the other 50% in 6 monthly payments, by completion and inspection; with a second by Charles Krall. Motion carried.*

David Richards's mention the Commonwealth Financing will not be distributed any money until possibly April.

Public Comment: David Woodward asked about the policy change in the billing, would this affect the January billing. He was told it wouldn't until next quarter. John Schlaline commented about the safety issue and suggested the Authority institute a safety program. He was told we belong to PA Rural Water which offers safety classes.

Members were reminded the next meeting will be March 3, 2011 at the Authority office at 7 PM.

The regular meeting closed at 8:36 PM for an **Executive Session** on personnel matter concerning hiring an additional employee. The **Executive Session** closed at 8:54 PM, and the regular meeting reopened. *Charles Krall made the motion to hire Ryan J. Swope at the rate of \$11.00 hour for 25 to 30 hours a week; with a second by Robert Clayton. Motion carried.*

Having no further business, *Charles Krall made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM, with a second by Robert Clayton. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted
Hannelore B. Furst, EBAJA Secretary