

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

December 5, 2024

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board was held December 5, 2024 at 103 Locust St., East Berlin, PA. The meeting was presided over by Chairman Green. Chairman Green opened the meeting at 7pm with a Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

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

**Members Absent**

**Also Present:** M. Earp, Treasurer H. Lau, Solicitor Battersby, Engineer D. Young, N. Boyer

**Guests:** Cathy DeHaven, Charles Krall

**Public / Guest Comment:** **Cathy DeHaven**, a resident of the borough, appealed to the board regarding her delinquent water bill. She explained her financial situation and how she has just recently started receiving income from social security. Her water was turned off for non-payment after many months of failed payment agreements. The board decided to accept a payment of \$50.00/month until she is better able to rectify the situation. After payment at the conclusion of the meeting, the water will be turned back on in the morning.

**Charles Krall**, a resident of the borough, expressed concern over the recent fire in Reading Township where multiple units/fire departments were dispatched. The fire was located along the creek on Conewago Drive off of Kuhn Fording Road, approximately 100 feet from the Conewago Creek. Mr. Krall wondered why a Heidlersburg tanker was filling their truck with treated water from the hydrant at Sixth and West King Streets instead of using the dry hydrant located a block away. He wondered why creek water was not used to extinguish the fire instead of water that has been treated for consumption at a cost to the East Berlin residents.

**Agenda:** A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the agenda for December 5, 2024 board meeting as written, with a second by R. Weidner. **Motion carried to accept the agenda as amended.**

**Minutes:** A motion was made by W. Staub to accept the minutes of November 7, 2024 as written, with a second by V. Krall. **Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.**

**Payment of Bills:** All members received a list of payables for DECEMBER 2024, totaling **\$58,713.62** from the Operational funds. Chairman Green noted the amount included the insurance premium payment to Grundy Insurance. The board was advised the refund from Selective had not yet been received. A motion was made by V. Krall to pay the December 2024 bills, with a second from W. Staub. **Motion carried.**

**Engineer's Report:**

- Continued work on planning and permitting documents for WWTP Expansion and Sanitary Sewer Expansion Project.
- BH received notice of an EPA grant program to fund treatment for emerging contaminants, including PFAS, that is intended for small water systems and disadvantaged communities, such as EBAJA. Pennsylvania will be receiving over \$37 million for this grant program. BH will keep the board members informed as more information unfolds. The solicitor said he would touch base with Aspire Grant and Development regarding potential grants.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- Present

### Treasurer's Report:

- Open balance: \$42,186.09
- Presented the proposed 2025 budget to the board. Budgeted capital expenses include: installation of four fire hydrants, fix wall at Well #2, software upgrade for meter readers, Fifth St. galvanized line replacement, replace roof at Well #4, Generator, Fix the Sixth and West King St. sewer main, and replace the obsolete printers at the administrative office. As discussed at the November meeting, the only way to balance the budget is to cut back on repairs or raise rates. The budget as presented showed a loss of \$156,153.81 to the capital reserve. The treasurer proposed only installing one new fire hydrant, raise the sewer capital expense fee by \$10.00 and raise the water rate \$1.00 per 1000 gallons. The Chairman asked for a motion to be made. V. Krall made a motion to accept the proposed budget along with the rate increases and amended number of fire hydrant installations. W. Staub seconded the motion. The Chairman asked for a roll call vote. All members were in attendance, all members voted in the affirmative. Motion passed. The 2025 Budget was passed.

### Secretary's Report:

- Because the holidays fall in the middle of the week this year, the office will be closed to the public on December 24, 25, 31, 2024 & January 1, 2025. The amended holiday hours will be posted on the website.
- Received notice that the website needs to be ADA compliant by April 2027. The website administrators are offering an introductory rate of an additional \$500.00 for the widget. W. Staub suggested that due to financial constraints as outlined in the budget, to table the discussion until 2027. Subject tabled without further discussion.
- Several pieces of mail, including payments, bank statements, and invoices have not been delivered by the USPS. A complaint has been filed, but nothing has been resolved. Many customers are upset. They all claim to have sent their pieces around the 11<sup>th</sup> of October.
- Three accounts were scheduled for shut off, but two paid in full. 324 Locust was turned off on December 3, 2024. 510 West King St. and 111 Lodge Lane have been turned off because the houses are vacant and the owners have left no forwarding address.
- Next grant meeting with the county is Wednesday December 11, 2024 at 11 a.m.

### Unfinished Business:

#### New Business:

#### Operator's Report:

- Replaced the Digester #1 supernate pump at WWTP.
- Replaced the blower hose in Digester #1.
- Water main break on Harrisburg St. Friday November 29, 2024

**Correspondence:** Email from borough resident Curvin Dennis. Mr. Dennis wanted to know why the board was considering the H&R Block office space when it lacks parking, why they do not go back to the borough building, why they are spending money to run sewer to Hamilton township, and why they applied for grants for Hamilton Township instead of the borough. He accused the board of raising rates to they can be nice to people they like. He complained about the inefficient posting of the meeting minutes and the absence of a posted agenda. The email was acknowledged without comment.

**Executive Session:** n/a

**Motion to adjourn** the meeting was made by R. Wiedner with a second by V. Krall. **Motion carried.**

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Green at 7:35 p.m.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled to be held **January 2, 2025** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 p.m.