

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

February 6, 2025

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board was held February 6, 2025 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, R. Teal

Members Absent: W. Staub, V. Krall

Also Present: M. Earp, Solicitor Battersby, Engineer D. Young, N. Boyer

Guests:

Public / Guest Comment:

Agenda: A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the agenda for February 6, 2025 board meeting as written, with a second by R. Weidner. **Motion carried to accept the agenda as amended.**

Minutes: A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the minutes of January 2, 2025 as written, with a second by R. Weidner. **Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.**

Payment of Bills: All members received a list of payables for January 2025, totaling **\$43,676.57** from the Operational funds. A motion was made by R. Weidner to pay the January 2025 bills, with a second from R. Teal. Motion carried.

Engineer's Report:

- Still waiting for information from the state regarding using co-stars for the generator.
- Continued work on the planning and permitting documents. Going through QA/QC review and will then be ready to advertise, send to County Planning for review, and subsequently seek adoption by Hamilton Township and East Berlin Borough.
- Finished the design for the water and sewer extension on Rte 194. Currently making final drafting changes and will provide plans for review and comment in the next two weeks.
- Reviewed comments by PADEP on the water system inspection, including the requirement to make changes related to the collection of chlorine residual samples. Typically, the chlorine monitor analyzes constantly, which is not required due to the size of the system. DEP has instructed to either monitor continuously or remove the analyzer and do a grab sample. Removing the system will save operational costs related to calibration, maintenance, and power consumption. A motion was made by R. Weidner to tear out the system and revert to daily sample with a second from R. Teal. All in favor. Motion carried.
- Attended Teams meeting with PADEP to discuss PFAS MCL compliance issue.

Solicitor's Report:

- Present

Treasurer's Report:

- **Open Balance: \$62,278.89**
- Office Lease Renewal: The new monthly rent amount is \$688.50 or \$8,262.00 for the year. If paid in advance for the full year, the payment will be \$7848.90 or \$654.08 per month, for a savings of \$413.10 for the year. R. Weidner made a motion to pay the lump sum amount with a second by R. Teal. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report:

- New office printers will be installed February 19, 2025.
- PFOA public notice was sent out January 24, 2025.

Unfinished Business:

- PFOS/PFOA
 - Public Notice was sent to area residents Jan 24, 2025. As of this date, no one called to ask questions other than a reporter who claimed he was contacted by a resident.
 - Board members expressed surprise that no residents showed up at the meeting to have their concerns placed on record.
 - The Chairman, Engineer, Secretary, and Operator met with PA DEP to work on a plan on how to move forward.
 - DEP advised there are too many possibilities for how the contaminants got into the system to waste time trying to find the source.
 - Current compliance rules indicated that once a second violation is received (expected in March), the system will have 120 days to come into compliance. PA DEP recognizes that is not possible with this situation, so they will work with the Authority to extend deadlines while this problem is resolved.
 - Options being considered include:
 - Closing the wells. This would cause great stress on the system and would place the entire town into permanent conservation mode.
 - Drilling a new well. This will be costly and may not solve the problem long term.
 - Selling the system to York Water. They have reached out to Buchart Horn indicating they are interested in servicing East Berlin. York Water is an investor-owned utility.
 - Implementing a filtration system. This will require upfront expense, plus ongoing maintenance and costs. Because this is a new procedure, pilot testing would need to be conducted. Pilot Testing takes about nine months and is costly due to rental of the equipment and sample testing. The system could apply for a waiver for pilot testing if they choose GAC (granulated activated carbon), but that waiver is not guaranteed.
 - There is funding available through Pennvest. The Authority would need to apply for either a grant or a loan and the agency will decide how to distribute any award. If the terms are not acceptable, the Authority is under no obligation to accept the award.
 - The Authority members decided to try to determine an approximate cost of the filtration system, contact Pennvest to see what is needed to start an application, and wait for an expected offer letter from York Water before making the final decision on how to proceed.

New Business: A door needs to be installed in the vestibule of the Locust St. office to help insulate the office which will result in reducing heating and cooling bills.

Operator's Report:

- Replaced hydrant #39 by the library
- Replaced hydrant #31 by the medical center. This was the hydrant that fire fighters could not get to work during the recent house fire on Locust St. The hydrant worked properly when tested, but was replaced to alleviate residents fears and ensure the hydrant would not fail again.
- Envirep completed annual service on influent pumps at the WWTP.
- Scheduled to grab quarterly PFO samples at all entry points on March 3, 2025.
- Working on getting digester #1 drained and cleaned to replace the plug valve on the digester transfer pump lines at the WWTP.

Correspondence:

- Mayor Haley would like to take a tour of the facilities with the student ambassadors currently serving on Borough Council. The idea was received positively. An appointment will be made with the mayor to carry out this initiative.
- An email from reporter Harrison Jones regarding the PFO Public Notice, which was answered by the Chairman. The resulting article was published in the York Daily Record on February 6, 2025. A copy of the article is available to residents at the Locust St. office.

Executive Session: n/a

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by R. Wiedner with a second by R. Teal. **Motion carried.**
Meeting was adjourned by Chairman Green at 7:46 p.m.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled to be held **March 6, 2025** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 p.m.