

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

May 1, 2025

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority Board was held May 1, 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, V. Krall, W. Staub

Members Absent

Also Present: Solicitor Battersby, Engineer D. Young, Treasurer H. Lau, Secretary M. Earp,

Guests: Mason Huff, Express Water & William VanHuff from THEIA. JT Hand or York Water.

Agenda: A motion was made by R. Teal to accept the agenda for May 1, 2025 board meeting as written, with a second by V. Krall. **Motion carried to accept the agenda as written.**

Minutes: A motion was made by R. Weidner to accept the minutes of April 3, 2025 as written, with a second by R. Teal. Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.

Payment of Bills: All members received a list of payables for April 2025, totaling **\$26,516.93** from the Operational funds. A motion was made by W. Staub to pay the April 2025 bills, with a second from R. Weidner. Motion carried.

Public / Guest Comment: Mason Hoff of Express Water, LLC in New Oxford is looking for a pilot test site for filtration system using bentonite clay, provided by THEIA, LLC using technology created by CETCO, a subsidiary of Mineral Technologies, that specializes in providing solutions to construction and environmental challenges worldwide.

- THEIA, LLC offers a mobile filtration system that sits inside a sea box (container box).
- They offer both Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) and a system called Fluoro-Sorb, which is a technology created by CETCO, using bentonite clay as the filter.
- It is their belief that the PFOA/S contamination is a temporary situation of unknown length, since all the contaminants will eventually be captured by the filtration system.
- The main reason for reaching out to the Authority is because they need a contaminated well to pilot test the Fluoro-Sorb system in Pennsylvania. The municipality would need to apply for the permit. The treatment option falls under Other on the PADEP permit application.
- Fluoro-Sorb is already in use to treat PFOA/PFOS in six other states, including a military base. It needs to be pilot tested before it can be offered in Pennsylvania.
- Fluoro-Sorb has been outperforming GAC.
- Filter replacement timeline would depend on the concentration of PFOS/As, other contaminants that the bentonite clay may also hold, and the flow rates.
- As of now, none of the filters currently in use have needed to be replaced. The oldest system they have is five years old. PFOA/PFOS filtration is a new process, therefore there is not a lot of historical data.
- Because a GAC system is already permissible in Pennsylvania, THEIA, LLC would run the GAC system to filter the drinking water in order to get the well compliant as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, they would like to run the Fluoro-sorb system alongside the GAC to satisfy the pilot test. There are different ways to hook up the two systems in order to have the pilot test running alongside the filtrated drinking water, which can be tailored to the needs or preferences of the Authority.
- If the Authority is not interested in being the test site for the Fluoro-Sorb pilot test, THEIA, LLC is still able to provide the mobile GAC system.

- Express Water, LLC is looking at buying the mobile system from THEIA, LLC and leasing it to the Authority at a potential guesstimated cost of anywhere from \$10-20,000 per month.
- It was unclear if the Authority could purchase the system themselves, or lease it directly from THEIA, LLC. No cost estimates were provided.

Chairman Green asked the gentlemen to forward more formal proposals and thanked them for their time.

Engineer's Report:

- WWTP Expansion and Sanitary Sewer Extension Special Study comment period ends May 7, 2025. Hamilton Township passed a resolution adopting the study (a copy was forwarded to the Authority). Following adoption by the Borough and the Authority, we can submit the study to PADEP. The Solicitor interjected to state the Borough did pass a resolution (the Authority has not been forwarded a copy).
- Presented a resolution in support of the Authority adopting the Special Study to be entered into the official record after obtaining necessary signatures and the Authority seal. Solicitor interjected to explain that "both the borough and Hamilton Township need to change their Act 537 plan to accommodate what is being done (extending the sewer/water lines into Hamilton Township) and the resolution is acknowledging that, that is all it is, we can pass it, but we don't have a 537 plan." Chairman Green reiterated that this resolution is in support of that effort. **R. Teal** made a motion with a second from **V. Krall** to accept the resolution. Motion carried.
- Rt 194 Water and Sewer Extension is in the final stages of the permit applications. There are two permits necessary. The first is a Highway Occupancy Permit which Buchart Horn will apply for online. PENNDOT requires authorization to submit the permit on the Authority's behalf. A form was presented to the chairman, granting that authorization, which he signed. The second permit is The Water Quality Management Part II permit will be ready to submit prior to the next Board meeting, therefore it was requested that the chairman's signature of that permit be authorized by the board when that application is ready. **V. Krall** made a motion to authorize the chairman's signature of that permit with a second by **R. Teal**. Motion carried.
- BH reviewed the Well 1 water quality data received to date for a potential waiver of an ion exchange pilot test. Will summarize the results after all the results have been received. GAC has a blanket waiver, Ion Exchange waivers are based on case by case. A waiver would result in the ability to start designing in order to get a permit. They would not have to test for nine months prior to the design phase.
- Will be attending the meeting on Monday May 5, 2025 to discuss the compliance schedule with PADEP.
- BH compiled information about the water and wastewater system for use by the valuation consultant.

Solicitor's Report:

- Suggested that the water from the water tank on Brough Hill Road should be tested for the PFOA/S.
- Placed a lien on 211 Schoolhouse Lane.
- Will be attending the May 5th meeting with the DEP, will be asking for a two-month extension.

Treasurer's Report:

- **Open Balance: \$72,381.09**

Secretary's Report:

- Auditors were on site April 14-16. Final report is expected in June.
- 510 West King St. property changed hands through a sheriff's sale without any request for final billing. Sheriff's office says we did not file a request for payment, therefore the new owner has been given a clear title.
- 320 West King St. is being converted into apartments. Letter was sent to property owner explaining ordinances related to apartments.
- Certified letter sent to property owner regarding purported use of a well at 211 Schoolhouse Lane.

Unfinished Business:

- PFOS/PFOA
 - Required meeting with PA DEP to discuss progress scheduled for Monday May 5, 2025.
 - PFOA/S results from March 21, 2025 sampling at Entry Point #1 was 17 ng/l with the four-quarter average holding at 18 ng/l. Tier 2 Public Notification was sent to customers April 24, 2025 in accordance with PADEP guidelines.
 - An onsite meeting/tour of facilities with the valuation consultants is scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025 at 12:00 noon.
 - Chairman instructed that a decision on how to proceed needs to be made at the June 5, 2025 meeting. Options include: purchasing bulk water from York Water Co. as needed, remediating the affected well through filtration, or selling the Water & Wastewater system to an investor-owned entity.

New Business: n/a

Operator's Report:

- 2025 hydrant flushing schedule has been posted on the website and at the Authority office.

Correspondence: n/a

Executive Session: n/a

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by **R. Teal** with a second by **R. Weidner**.
Meeting was adjourned by **Chairman Green** at 8:03 p.m.

The next monthly board meeting is scheduled to be held **June 5, 2025** at 103 Locust Street at 7:00 p.m.