

EAST BERLIN AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
103 LOCUST STREET, PO BOX 37
EAST BERLIN, PA 17316
December 7, 2017

The monthly meeting of the East Berlin Area Joint Authority was held December 7, 2017 at 103 Locust Street, East Berlin, PA 17316, and was conducted by Chairman Gerald L. Mummert. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7 PM.

Members Present: Gerald L. Mummert; Ron Weidner; Harold Lau; and Charles Krall

Members Absent: Rick Saxon

Also Present: Hannelore Furst, Secretary; Solicitor Matt Battersby; Deepthi Kalyanam of Buchart-Horn; John Scrivens; and David Richards

Minutes: *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to accept the minutes of November 2, 2017 as written, with a second by Harold Lau. **Motion carried to accept the minutes as written.***

Payment of Bills: All members received a copy of the bills and receipts for November 2017 for a total of \$17,2778.35 from the operational fund. *A motion was made by Harold Lau to approve the paying of the bills for November with a second by Ron Weidner. **Motion carried.***

Payment of December 2017 bills with the Chairman's or Treasurer's authorization: *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to pay the December 2017 bills; with a second by Harold Lau. **Motion carried.***

Public/Guest Comment: None

Engineer's Report: Deepthi reported she reviewed the MBA water tower inspection evaluation and she submitted a proposal for engineering services for the Water Tank Rehabilitation Project. This would assist in securing a grant for the Boyer Street water tower. She broke the project down into 2 parts. The 1st part is engineering services (preparation of drawing specifications, DEP permit amendment), would cost \$15,500, and 2nd part of the proposal would cost \$10,600; to secure funding assistance from PA Small Water and Sewer Program (compiling the documents, obtaining planning approval, preparing cost estimates for alternatives) which is due February 28, 2018. She also provided some information of the USDA Rural Development Program which has a Loan/Grant Program. The eligibility for that program is having a population of less than 10,000 and there is no deadline for the USDA Rural Development Program. Solicitor Battersby suggested applying to both.

There was a brief discussion on the option of a new tank vs. rehabilitation of the old tank. She stated the cost to repairing the existing tank is approximately \$450,000; just construction costs. She mentioned several years ago, Bruce Hulshizer did prepare information for a new tank at a larger capacity and the cost was approximately 1,200,000 for a 500,000 gallon tank. The existing tank holds 170,000gallons. Chairman Mummert mentioned that was when the Authority was expecting growth of the Buttercup Farm area in Hamilton Township; which did not happen. Solicitor Battersby suggested contacting Congressman Scott Perry who is with the US Dept of Agriculture; he may be able to help us, concerning the water tower. It was suggested speaking with Andrew Raymond, a town resident, who supports Scott Perry.

Harold Lau mentioned if we got a full grant from USDA we would be OK, but if we would have to lay out half the cost, that would be \$600,000; which would mean a \$1.50 increase in water rates for the next 20 years to pay it off. Deepthi stated she would get the cost for a new tank, and recommends submitting the information, so the project would be shovel ready, and we would only be waiting for the funding. Solicitor Battersby suggested getting an engineering estimate for what the whole project would cost, including the fee for design, then contact Congressman Scott Perry for the help. It was suggested if we built a new tank, we should ask the owner of the property at Well #6 to sell the Authority a plot for the

new tower. The discussion continued on why we would need a 500,000 gallon tank. Deepthi will check pricing on a 300,000 gallon tank compared to a 500,000 gallon tank. The two tanks are 238,000 gallons at the west end of town and the Boyer Street tank is 150,000 gallons.

Deepthi stated she is preparing the work for the annual Chapter 94 Report.

Deepthi mentioned Andrew Dehoff contacted her and asked if there was still interest in him helping with DEP and Reading Twp. problem; it was stated not at this time.

Solicitor's Report: Nothing to report.

Treasurer's Report: Harold Lau reported 47 delinquent accounts for a total \$21,631.59. He also reported he has the letters ready to be distributed to the homeowners whose properties are in violation. Mr. Lau will have the budget ready for adoption at the January meeting; he is waiting for the water tower expenses for the budget.

Secretary's Report: Hanna Furst reported and read the letter from Trinity Lutheran Church; they are giving up the EDU for the property they acquired at 115 West King Street. She also reported she received from Hamilton Township their new Ordinance # 2017-137 -Mandatory Sewer Service for properties situated within the East Berlin Area Joint Authority service area. The Board also received a copy of the 2018 meeting dates.

Unfinished Business: A quote was submitted from Hull Enterprises at a cost of \$5,895.00 for Well House #2. Charles Krall questioned Solicitor Battersby on whether he should vote on this; because he is related to the contractor. Solicitor Battersby asked Charles Krall if the contractor lives in the same household; he does not and whether he would be receiving any money from this agreement; he would not; then there is no problem with hiring the contractor. There were two options; both options would cost the same; it was decided to let Nathan Boyer decide which option he would like. There were no other quotes submitted, even though others were asked to quote the job. *A motion was made by Ron Weidner to accept the bid price of \$5,895.00 by Hull Enterprises; with a second by Harold Lau. By roll call vote-Ron Weidner-Yes, Harold Lau-Yes, Gerald Mummert-Yes and Charles Krall-Abstained. **Motion passed with three Yes'.***

New Business: None

Operator's Report:

Nathan Boyer – Absent

John Scrivens – John reported for Nathan: Nathan is working on replacing the fire hydrant at 219 West King Street. Dept of Environmental Protection Sewer Dept. did their annual inspection, and everything passed.

Correspondence-Email concerning the Clean Water Plan

Having nothing further to discuss the meeting adjourned at 7:46 PM, on a motion by Ron Weidner, with a second by Harold Lau. **Motion carried.** Next meeting will be held **January 4, 2018** at 103 Locust Street at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Hannelore B. Furst, Secretary EBAJA

