

## MEETING OF October 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the Danville Municipal Authority was held at the Danville Borough Hall, on Monday, October 18, 2021. Present were Pete Rickert, Dick Blosky, Mike Kuziak, and Donald Lutz, together with their Solicitor, Michael P. Dennehy, Esquire. Also present was Shannon Berkey, Borough Manager, and Brindy Mordan.

Minutes of the meeting of September 20, 2021, were approved as published on Motion of Donald Lutz and seconded by Dick Blosky. MOTION CARRIED

Pete Rickert just wanted to follow up with Shannon to see if there had been any contact with Rita Roberts since the last meeting. Shannon said there was none, however, Ms. Roberts did receive the certified letter.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

There was none.

### **WATER:**

The financial reports submitted by the Borough for the month of September 31, 2021 were reviewed. The expenditures for the operation of the water plant were \$172,056.44. A Motion to approve the financial reports and expenditures for the operation of the water plant was deferred until the November meeting.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Pete Rickert asked Shannon with regard to the #3 filter whether or not we received the sample results. Shannon stated that they were received.

### **Borough Manager's Report:**

Shannon Berkey requested payment for Contract #1 Payment #11 for the filter project in the amount of \$99,326.82. Motion was deferred on Payment #11 until the November meeting.

**Addendum with Suez** - Shannon gave the Authority an update on the Addendum with Suez. Shannon had several conversations with John Hollenbach from Suez regarding the tapping fee and the increase of gallons per day. Once Shannon explained the 3-million-dollar amount to him, he then went back to re-evaluate things. After much discussion Suez offered to give us 50% of the connection costs up to \$250,000.00. (Please note that our engineer thinks that this total cost may be about \$200,000.00). After Shannon received that information, she didn't want Suez to pledge more than needed toward this cost and decided to decrease that about by \$50,000 and bring the connection cost for Suez to \$100,000.00 and then Shannon asked for an additional \$250,000.00 payment towards the tapping fee. Suez agreed to all those things and then said they

were willing to put in the termination clause in the Agreement, that states that if they terminate this agreement early, they will pay the Danville Municipal Authority \$500,000.00. Motion was deferred to approve the Addendum with Suez until the November meeting.

**Fire Hydrant Use Policy** - Shannon presented the Authority with the final draft for consideration of the Fire Hydrant use policy. The Authority members instructed Shannon to send the policy to everyone on the proposed distribution list. Motion was deferred to approve the policy until the November meeting.

**Meter Installation Project** – There were about 1700 residential meters installed and they have approximately 18 left. They are working on the bid spec package for the meter pit installation. The count of the meter pits is currently at 92. Once the meter pit bid specs are worked out, they would be prepared to put that out to bid and then bring that information back to the Authority. Looking at having that project completed by Spring. Shannon stated that they are still within budget as well.

### **SEWER:**

#### **Financial Report:**

The financial reports submitted by the Borough for the month of September 2021 were reviewed. The expenditures for the operation of the sewer plant were \$300,329.14. A Motion to approve the financial reports and expenditures for the operation of the sewer plant was deferred until the November meeting.

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

Shannon reported to the Authority that after the meeting with Riverside last month, they did get the pump ordered and the transition is happening.

#### **Borough Manager's Report:**

**Sludge Disposal Lease** – The current Lease expires on December 31, 2021. The Lease is between the Borough of Danville and the Danville Municipal Authority to spread their sludge on the Danville Borough Farm Lands at a rate of \$52,500 per year. The Municipality would like to continue the Lease Agreement and would like the Authority to consider another Lease Agreement and possibly address any annual increase. A Motion to approve a new Lease Agreement and a possible increase in the rate was deferred until the November meeting.

#### **Engineer's Report for Water/Sewer:**

**Water Annual Services** – Gannet Fleming has previously prepared a rate study agreement for water; a fee amendment is under preparation for adding the sewer rates to the study for an additional \$10,000.00. The original agreement was for \$25,000 and this would be in

addition to that. A Motion was deferred to approve this fee amendment until the November meeting.

**Fisher Court Pump Station and Franklin Street Sewer Extension Project** – Gannet Fleming obtained a quote for tank pull and recommends proceeding with the quote obtained since there seem to be a lack of contractors doing this type of work on COSTARs. The quote was provided by Diltz Equipment Sales, Inc from Bloomsburg and was under the threshold. No Motion needed to move forward with Diltz Equipment Sales.

**ADDITIONAL COMMENTS:**

**Valley Township Water & Sewer Bills** – Shannon wanted to bring to the Authority’s attention that Valley Township is currently past due on Water in the about of \$52,411.86 and Sewer in the amount of \$95,161.15 with the grand total outstanding at \$147,573.01. Brindy stated that she feels there in no end in sight with there being a constant outstanding balance. Typically, we don’t charge past due fees on our bulk users and give them every opportunity to pay, however, Brindy feels as though they are now taking advantage of this situation. Shannon stated that they made a friendly suggestion to Valley Township Municipal Authority that there are COVID relief funds for the municipality available to them and to discuss this with their Supervisors.

Mike Kuziak was in a Valley Township meeting a few months ago when John Novak, Valley Township Municipal Authority member, came to the meeting to discuss the situation and asked the Supervisors to bail them out through the COVID fund. Mike was under the impression that the Supervisors do have enough money to bail them out if necessary.

Solicitor Dennehy said there is no reason that the Authority could not send a letter explaining the status to them and letting them know that if the balance was not soon paid that past due fees would begin to start accruing on the unpaid balance.

**Riverside Calculation** – The calculation happens when the concentration is high which in turn means that there would be fee every quarter if the composite testing continues to stay high. Tia did the calculation for the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2021, and it was just shy of \$8,000. Shannon has a meeting scheduled with John on October 20, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. to which Pete Rickert will also attend with her to discuss this issue. In the meantime, Tia had gone back to the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019. The 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2019 was \$2200, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019 was \$400.00, 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2020 was \$9,300, 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2020 was \$5100, 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020 was \$14,000 and the, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2020 was \$7800. These surcharges will need to be discussed to see what the solution will be.

Marks, McLaughlin, Dennehy & Piontek presented their quarterly invoice in the amount of \$2,751.00. A Motion to pay the invoice was deferred until the November meeting.

There being no further business, a Motion to Adjourn was made by Donald Lutz and seconded by Dick Blosky. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary