

SAXONBURG AREA AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING
Meeting Minutes
August 16, 2022

Chairman Clifford called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Roll Call Joe Neubert, Rob Mrozek, Scott Herbst, Doug Farney, Greg Clifford, Curt Heakins, John Ham, and Doug Roth were present.

Also in attendance were Don Graham/Solicitor, Paul Cornetti/Manager, Mary Papik/Controller, Jody Vettori/Recording Secretary, and Brendan A. Linton of the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority.

Mrs. Rinebolt arrived at 6 p.m.

Correspondence

On August 5, the Authority received an invitation for a golf outing and dinner on September 2nd from KLH Engineers.

Minutes Chairman Clifford asked if there were any additions or corrections to the Minutes of July 19, 2022. Hearing none, they were approved as submitted.

Public Comments None

Controller Mary Papik

Bills, Item C.2.3

Motion was made and seconded by Doug Roth/Curt Heakins to approve checks in the amount of \$41,458.33 paid from the SAA Revenue Fund and \$4,448.92 paid from the Borough General Fund on August 16, 2022. In addition, decrease adjustments from the Borough General Fund in July in the amount of \$24,766.18, and \$16,198.82 from the Revenue Fund, and payroll expenses for July 2022. The motion carried.

BNY Bond Payment, Item C.5

Motion was made and seconded by Curt Heakins/John Ham to approve the transfer of \$188,113.32 to BNY Mellon for the September 1, 2022 bond payment. The motion carried.

Manager Paul Cornetti

KLH Engineers Annual Golf Outing, Item A.1.2

This event will be held on September 2nd. Doug Roth, Greg, Curt, and Rob will go to this event. Jody will sign them up along with anyone else who may want to go to just the dinner.

Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company Donation Request, Item A.6

Motion was made and seconded by John Ham/Curt Heakins to approve the donation request from Penn Township Volunteer Fire Company in the amount of \$500. The motion carried.

Connoquenessing Township Sanitary Sewer Service, Item A.12

Paul explained that he, Greg, and Don met with the Connoquenessing Township Sewer Authority on August 4th. The SAA provided a report that explained the SAA's expenses for providing bulk/metered service to Connoquenessing Township would be about \$250,000 per year with a \$4 million Capacity portion of the tap fee. Under this option, Connoquenessing Township would simply be a single customer just like any other SAA customer. One bill would be mailed to Connoquenessing Township each month and the SAA would not provide any O&M on Connoquenessing Township's system, since Connoquenessing Township would own and operate its own collection system. Connoquenessing Township would be required to have an administrative and O&M staff to complete all matters related to its collection and conveyance system.

Another option considered would be for the SAA to treat the wastewater and maintain Connoquenessing Township's collection and conveyance system, but not to own the system. This is not a likely scenario.

The final option would be for the SAA to own, operate and maintain Connoquenessing Township's system in full, just like our other municipalities. HRG provided a report that explained that there would be 1158 EDUs, 11 pump stations, and many grinder pump units. The project cost under this scenario would be near \$31 million. Both parties agreed that grant funding potential would be best if Connoquenessing Township constructed the system and turned it over to the SAA.

The SAA explained to Connoquenessing Township on August 4th that, in all cases, if the SAA is involved it must benefit the existing SAA customers as well as the Connoquenessing Township residents as well. The SAA Board members would prefer that all customers, including Connoquenessing Township, pay the same rates to maintain unity in the municipalities. However, it is acknowledged that Connoquenessing Township would need to receive a great deal of grant funding for this to work.

Mr. Linton explained the status of planning thus far. Connoquenessing Township has an approved 537 Plan which includes treatment of its own wastewater; however, during a second opinion review, the SAA became an attractive option. Should the SAA be the chosen alternative, a new 537 Plan would need to be drafted and approved, which would take several years.

Paul explained projections that showed the addition of Connequenessing Township customers would not overtax the SAA system or greatly reduce its life expectancy. Paul discussed the stability to be gained by both parties, and the Board members discussed at length the efficiencies for both parties.

Mr. Linton explained that the Connoquenessing Township Supervisors are meeting in September and may make a decision; and therefore, he would like to be able to report if the SAA has interest. The SAA Board members expressed great interest and willingness to assist in any capacity provided it makes sense for both parties.

Motion was made and seconded by Doug Roth/Scott Herbst to continue to explore options with Connoquenessing Township on how to provide sanitary sewer service. The motion carried.

2023 Annual Budget and Capital Projects, Item C.1

Paul explained that the staff will be starting on the 2023 annual budget in the next few weeks and if the Board would like any specific items to be included or changed in the budget to please let the staff know.

Paul explained that he would like to see new executive chairs in Chambers. Mr. Heakins felt the chairs were unnecessary. The Board agreed to hold off on the chairs.

Butler County Infrastructure Bank Grant Fund Program, Item C.13

Paul explained that the County has about \$30-\$38 million available from federal pandemic money available to fund only stormwater, sanitary sewer, and potable water projects. The staff identified 15 remaining old VCP sewer line projects that would be eligible for replacement to PVC. Total project costs are estimated at \$4.1 million. The staff worked on and completed the application including a \$500,000 local fund match. Mr. Heakins explained that he reviewed the application as the staff was finishing and he commended the staff for a great job on the application. The Board agreed.

Motion was made and seconded by Scott Herbst/Curt Heakins to approve the application for funding assistance to the Butler County Infrastructure Bank Grant Fund Program and to pledge \$500,000 of Local Funds. The motion carried.

Solicitor Don Graham of Dillion, McCandless, King, Coulter, & Graham, LLP

The Solicitor had no further report at this time.

Old Business None

New Business None

Adjournment The meeting adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

Jody Vettori
Recording Secretary