

**EPHRATA AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
MINUTES – FEBRUARY 21, 2013**

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority met on Thursday, February 21, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

In attendance were members Clark Stauffer, Chairman; Justin Harnish, Vice Chairman; Steve Sawyer, Treasurer; Dale Hertzog, Assistant Treasurer; Greg Schmuck, Assistant Secretary; and Member Steve Doster. Also attending were Gail Bare, Secretary; Robert Thompson, Borough Manager; Scott Hughes, Gannett Fleming; Attorney Gary Krafft; and Kathy Holzinger, Recorder.

Call to Order – Chairman Stauffer

Approval of Minutes – January 17, 2013

Motion by Mr. Harnish, seconded by Mr. Schmuck, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of January 17, 2013.

Financial Report – January 2013

Mrs. Bare said sales year-to-date are down a little - under about \$23,000 where we would expect to be at this time. Overall operating revenues collected are down slightly; we are at \$1.477 million. Operating expenditures are down also about the same amount as revenues. Overall we are at 1.244 million on expenditures.

Mrs. Bare said the only problem she sees at this point is the meter budget is already expended for the year. We will try to cut back and only redo the meters necessary for the remainder of the EAJA year. On the revenue side we have also taken in almost all of that budget. The revenues have matched the expenditures.

Payment of Bills – February 2013

There were two check disbursements. Check runs were on February 7 for \$73,121.81 and February 21 for \$189,255.34 for a total of \$262,377.15.

Motion to receive and file the financial report and pay the bills of \$262,377.15 was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

RFP #EAJA-13-1 Conceptual Design Alternatives for Old Mill Road Bridge Water Main Replacement

Mr. Thompson said as part of the leak detection it was reported that we were able to increase the accounted for water up to 93% from about 82%. One of the significant finds was a leak at the water line that goes under the Cocalico Creek at the Old Mill Bridge on Old Mill Road. To stop the leak Public Works installed valves on either side and shut it down until the water stopped flowing. That didn't correct the situation. Obviously there is still pipe there that needs to be looked at. EAJA solicited proposals and took in three proposals. Hanover was at \$10,489, Gannett Fleming was \$10,000. HRG is the consultant used for plan reviews so they are familiar with our assets. HRG came in at \$3,000. Staff is recommending awarding RFP #EAJA 13-1 to HRG in the amount of \$3,000.

Mr. Thompson said HRG will analyze the type of solution that they would recommend; in part they will be evaluating the existing conditions. Mr. Thompson said the proposal that went out was for engineering services to analyze and recommend the proper solution.

Motion by Mr. Harnish, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to award RFP #EAJA-13-1 to HRG, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$3,000. Motion passed unanimously.

Autumn Hills Phase I – Request to Reduce Financial Security-Final

Mr. Thompson said at last month's Authority meeting, EAJA accepted the water line in Autumn Hills, Phase I and waived the 18-month warranty period due to communication delays between the developer and staff. Staff indicated they would likely be back this month for the draw down request. Autumn Hills is requesting a draw down of the remaining balance of \$32,320.63, and staff is recommending the Authority approve the request.

Motion by Mr. Schmuck, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to approve reduction of the financial security for Autumn Hills, Phase I in the amount of \$32,320.63. Motion passed unanimously.

Engineering Report

Mr. Thompson said there were discussions regarding Nextel removing their antennae from the Lincoln Tank. We received information from Nextel indicating that their preference is to unbolt the antennae and the mounting system and leave the welded brackets on the tank. Mr. Thompson said staff agrees that is the most appropriate way because any exposed metal would be covered with cold galvanized rust inhibitor. Mr. Thompson said there is a shelter that sits on a concrete pad that we have not looked at yet. Mr. Thompson said per a Solicitor discussion before the meeting, it doesn't require the board's authorization to do so but we would like to look to see if there is any value to the Authority then we will keep those assets otherwise we will direct Nextel to remove them. There was no objection to this by the board members.

Air Scrubber and Leak Detection

Mr. Thompson said this is included in the supplemental information. As budgeted the last few years, staff wanted to remove the media out of the air stripping tower and replace it. Previous attempts have been unsuccessful. Mr. Thompson said the Public Works Superintendent along with water staff were successful in using Kline's and Sensenig Roofing who brought in a crane to lift off the top section of the tower. Over a four-day period staff was able to actually remove all the material and then replace the new packing balls. The budget for the project was \$50,000; staff was able to accomplish it for a little less than \$27,000. In the last two paragraphs of the memo dated February 13, leak detection is discussed. Messrs. Natarian and Swangren would like the Authority to consider doing another system-wide leak detection in the spring based on the success of last year. Mr. Thompson said at a cost of \$16,000 and due to the fact that the budgeted amount of \$50,000 for the tank was out of operating it would seem appropriate that is where the money would come from. Mr. Thompson said he would recommend considering that if in fact at any point before the end of the budget year if the accounted for water fell below 90% we would consider doing the system-wide leak detection. Mr. Thompson said it is a little early; a monthly report is done keeping track of accounted for water and the last three months have been 92%, 93%, and 92%. Falling below 90% would be a trigger. In the event that would

happen, we would move forward with leak detection, but it is not recommended now.

Mr. Thompson said upon the retirement of Steve Bonner and Paul Swangren taking the management leadership of the water group with Tom Natarian's supervision, they re-examined the capital project that the design had begun for the plate settler project. In the budget the plate settle project had an \$85,000 design cost associated with it in 2013 and an estimated \$700,000 capital cost for 2014.

There have been several meetings with Jamie Shambaugh of Gannett Fleming to discuss the report Gannett Fleming did on the LT2 requirements earlier in the year and to ask if this project was going to assist us in meeting those requirements. We previously thought this project would give us an additional half log removal. We needed to gain an additional one log removal. The recommendation was to get that one log removal by getting a half from individual sedimentation basin filter performance and the other being a combined filter performance.

The water treatment plant staff has programmed in with instrumentation that if the turbidity requirements on the top of the filter exceed a certain amount it will trigger the plant to shut itself down.

Mr. Thompson said we believe that will meet the requirements and that's what Gannett's letter supports; however, there are two things they would like to accomplish yet this year related to the LT2. That is to install the last two bullet items on the memo – a Filter Trak laser nephelometers and install some valves and automatic operators that would close over the plant when it exceeds .08 to .1 NTUs.

They are asking for the Authority to authorize \$28,000 of the design money. The design amount was \$85,000; we have spent about \$11,000. Staff would like to shut that project down and not spend any more money. We would like to ask the Authority if \$28,000 of that can be used for the highly sensitive turbidimeters and the automation of the valves.

Mr. Hughes said this is the most cost effective approach to meeting the LT2 requirements.

Mr. Thompson said they are requesting authorization to use \$28,000 for those two items out of the design account.

Motion by Mr. Harnish, seconded by Mr. Sawyer to approve \$28,000 for the LT2 compliance alternatives. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Next Meeting Date – March 21, 2013

Adjournment

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Bare
Secretary