

**EPHRATA AREA JOINT AUTHORITY  
MINUTES – APRIL 18, 2013**

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority met on Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 7:00 PM in the Conference Room of Ephrata Borough Hall, 124 South State Street.

In attendance were members Clark Stauffer, 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. Vice Chairman Justin Harnish was absent.

**Call to Order** – Chairman Stauffer

**Approval of Minutes – February 21, 2013**

Motion by Mr. Schmuck, seconded by Mr. Hertzog, and unanimously passed to approve the minutes of February 21, 2013.

**Financial Report – February/March 2013**

Mrs. Bare said sales year-to-date are slightly under, \$37,000. Mrs. Bare said she does expect that to come back somewhat with the last quarter of the EAJA year we usually have pretty good sales, residential water always goes up being spring and early summer. Total operating revenue collected \$1,890,000 against a budget YTD of \$1,930,000 – slightly under about \$40,000. Operating expenditures are \$1,480,000 against a YTD budget of \$1,560,000 so we are under budget about \$80,000. That offsets the lack of revenue that we are short.

**Payment of Bills – March/April 2013**

There were four check disbursements. Check runs were on March 4 for \$12,625.17; one on March 21 for \$53,772.50; one of April 4 for \$20,798.50 and one on April 18 for \$281,610.49 for a total of \$368,806.66

Mr. Thompson said we are doing the SCADA system in house and a lot of the computer interface as well as the computer are being done through purchases with Customer Computer; they are a costars vendor.

Motion to receive and file the financial report and pay the bills of \$368,806.66 was passed unanimously by roll call vote.

**H&F Tire – Water Main Extension**

Mr. Thompson said in the fall Mr. Fitzgerald from H&F Tire was here, and they were executing an improvement agreement to extend a water main about 75-85 feet so they could run it into the H&F Tire building where Bella Luna was relocating. During discussions with them we told them that we didn't exactly know where the water main was; however, we knew it was just past the fire hydrant. They continued to think it was still 75-80 feet down the way. Included is a letter from H&F Tire Service asking the Authority to reimburse them \$6,584.00 for two additional days billed by the excavator. The excavator's invoice notes water main revisions "add two crew days of exploration to find the end of existing water due to lack of information". H&F allegedly gave them incorrect information; we did not give them incorrect information. We told

them we simply did not have correct information because of how long it has been since this line was put in. H&F believes we should reimburse them. Also in the packet was a letter from David Burkholder, Engineering Project Manager that goes through a series of events. At no point in time did we advise them of a location that did not exist. We do not believe we have any liability here. Staff is going to issue to them a letter saying we disagree with their request and that we did not provide any incorrect information and as a result will deny their request for additional money. H&F was given whatever information we had and were also told that we really didn't know where the end of the main was.

### **Improvement Agreement – Copperwood Lane**

Mr. Thompson said Copperwood Lane is a subdivision off Akron Road. It is a proposed eleven lot subdivision. They are proposing to extend about 365 foot of eight inch ductile line. The improvement agreement is in the amount of \$67,749.00, and staff is recommending that the board approve the agreement in that amount.

Motion by Mr. Doster, seconded by Mr. Schmuck to approve the Improvement Agreement for Copperwood Lane in the amount of \$67,749.00. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Improvement Agreement – Home Towne Square, Phase 2**

Mr. Thompson said the second improvement agreement we have is from Lincoln Land Group for Home Towne Square, Phase 2. This is the subdivision in Clay Township off Hackman Road, an over 55 community. They are proposing to install 3,445 feet of eight inch ductile pipe and the improvement agreement amount is \$262,845.00, and staff is recommending the board approve. Mr. Thompson pointed out that the Solicitor has reviewed the agreement and verified the property owner with the name of the corporation and everything is in order.

Mr. Thompson said the water and sewer main are public, but the streets are private.

Mr. Thompson said they recently verified that Home Towne has not dedicated Phase 1. At the entrance to Home Towne they have stamped concrete. Mr. Thompson said before we accept a dedication we will have to have some waiver of our liability that if we have a failure there that we are not restoring stamped concrete.

Motion by Mr. Sawyer, seconded by Mr. Doster to approve the Improvement Agreement for Home Towne Square, Phase 2 in the amount of \$262,845.00. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Engineering Report**

Mr. Thompson said a couple months ago the board awarded an evaluation of water main repair under the Cocalico Creek to HRG. The draft report on the evaluation is due in tomorrow. The board will hear about the report and a recommendation at next month's meeting. If the recommendation is supported we will then prepare a capital project that will be included in the Authority's 2013/2014 budget.

Mr. Thompson said earlier in this budget year the board authorized some improvements including the Nephelometers and some automation of valving for backwashing and turbidity.

Those improvements have been completed. The spring basin cleanings at both the plant and raw water intake at the creek have been done.

Mr. Thompson reported that he and the Chairman had a conversation yesterday and Mr. Stauffer asked for an update on Well 4.

Mr. Thompson said when Well 4 first went into service we were replacing the pre-filters of the nonfiltration system on a weekly basis and we were doing a clean and place every six weeks.

We spent a lot of time evaluating the source of the dissolved iron that was coming out. We have never come up with a solution to keep the iron in solution. We did a pilot test using a Nexsand filter that you would backwash and could reuse. That pilot test has been completed, and Gannett Fleming is currently completing the final report. The preliminary results are that it doesn't appear to be a cost effective solution. By the time we do the capital improvement which might be \$150,000, purchase the Nexsand for another \$15,000-20,000, and then we would have to purchase sewer capacity at the plant because the backwash water would have to go somewhere we might be upwards to \$200,000 or more; it doesn't offset the filters. Mr. Thompson said they have changed the operation of the well. They went from operating it 8-12 hours a day 4-5 days a week. The thought was maybe if we run it twenty-four hours a day it would have less impact. The Water Plant Operators have done what they think will maximize the operation which is run the well 4 as the supplemental supply. They use well 1 as the primary supply; they use the filter plant secondary balancing out taking the water out of the creek versus draw down recovery and then use well 4 as the makeup. The Water Operators tracked the cost of producing the water using the major components of wages, electricity and chemicals. When you do track that well 1 based on the cursory assessment is about \$ 0.43 per thousand gallons, the plant is about \$1.98 and well 4 is \$1.77. They have decided to run it hard for 3-4 days and maximize the output and then let it rest 2-3 days. They still are replacing the cartridge filters about once a week to once every two weeks; however, the clean and place we have been doing every six weeks is now being done twice a year and we are using less chemicals. Where we were spending \$42,000 a year on cartridge filters we are now spending about \$27,000-28,000. It has proven to be a high quality source but it is high cost. We continue to look for solutions.

### Akron

Mr. Thompson said shortly after the last meeting he spoke to Mr. Guers; their reverse osmosis system filter elements failed and they needed to replace all the elements. It recirculated chlorinated water through the filter elements. The system failed and they needed to purchase water to supplement their water with to keep the nitrates down. Mr. Guers called and based on the agreement with Akron for supplemental water they asked us to provide them with 50,000 gallons a days until further notice so we have been providing that. We will be invoicing them for the first 26 days - \$3,328.00. The supplemental water agreement says the first 50,000 gallons are at our most favorable rate; if it goes beyond that and they take water that we didn't authorize then it goes to the rate established by the board – penalty rate or Akron rate.

Mr. Thompson said Mr. Guers indicated that they submitted applications to SRBC to permit some of their water sources and they submitted their applications 18-24 months ago and they finally got a response back on one piece of it. That's how far behind they are.

We expect our response to our well 1 permit where they had conditions that we sent a large supply plan and the like saying we are going to be in touch with East Cocalico and Akron. The leak that we found which was 300,000-400,000 gallons will also assist us in our water supply. We will keep the dialogue open with Akron and East Cocalico to maintain that rapport.

**Next Meeting Date – May 16, 2013**

**Adjournment**

The meeting was duly adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail M. Bare  
Secretary