

EPHRATA AREA JOINT AUTHORITY MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 14, 2023

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority met on Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 124 S. State Street, Ephrata, PA.

In attendance were Thomas Reinhold, Chairman; Gary Landis, Vice Chairman; and Members Timothy Barr and Clark Stauffer. Absent were Steve Sawyer, Treasurer, and Jonathan Zimmerman, Assistant Treasurer.

Also in attendance were Attorney Aaron Zeamer, Russell, Krafft & Gruber, LLP; Nancy Harris, Secretary; Karen Gerhart, Director of Finance; Steve Morrison, Director of Utilities; and Stephanie Fasnacht, Recorder.

The following visitor was present:

- Dennis Hartranft, 15 Pottieger Rd., Bernville, PA

Call to Order

Chairman Reinhold called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Harris provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of Authority business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Chairman Reinhold asked if there were any requests to add a matter of Authority business to the meeting agenda. Seeing none, Chairman Reinhold asked for a motion to accept the meeting agenda as posted. Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Stauffer seconded to approve the meeting agenda as posted. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – August 10, 2023

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Landis seconded to approve the August 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

With no visitors in attendance wishing to address the Board, Chairman Reinhold moved onto the discussion of the Financial Reports and Payment of Bills.

Financial Reports

Prior to the vote to approve the financial reports, Ms. Gerhart updated the Board of the following items:

1. The 2022-2023 Audit has been completed with no issues;
2. Revised financial reports were provided prior to the start of the meeting; and,
3. Continuing to invest funds in term investments based on receiving good return rates.

Mr. Stauffer moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to ratify the payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Action Items**a. Becker Engineering, LLC: AB Martin Water Easement Crossing Review #2**

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to conditionally authorize the applicant's request of the Water Easement Crossing Plan for the Rail Spur Extension subject to the following comments and recommendations received from both Becker Engineering, LLC and Solicitor Zeamer:

1. The steel casing pipe material, thickness and protective coating shall be in accordance with Section 3.14.A. of the EAJA General Specifications and the casing pipe capped to the satisfaction of the Authority.
2. The applicant/applicant's contractor shall submit shop drawing information to the Authority for review and approval prior to commencing construction. Emailed shop drawings will be acceptable.
3. The applicant/applicant's contractor shall provide a minimum of 48-hours' notice to the Authority and Authority Engineer prior to commencement of construction within the area of the Authority's easement in order to coordinate necessary observations.
4. The Solicitor's review of the easement and amend, if necessary to add the following conditions:
 - a. No structures are to constructed on the easement;
 - b. The financial responsibility of any future damages and/or repairs will belong to the owner of the property at the time the easement was granted; and,
 - c. Any attorney fees incurred by the Authority for this project will be billed for reimbursement by AB Martin.

Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion Items**a. None**

Old Business Items**a. Highpoint Church**

Mr. Morrison commented that the project is continuing to move forward.

b. New Joy Church

Ms. Harris advised ELA Group is in the process of having a surveyor take a look to see if a request received by Mr. Cover to change the location of the discharge area is feasible.

Operations Report

- System Demand:
 - 1.968mgd Average for the Month of August
 - 1.935mgd Average for the Year
- Accounted For Water
 - 79.1% for the Month of August
 - 80.6% for the Year

Due to the System Demand trending back up, Dave Bonkovich was called in for leak detection efforts. Mr. Bonkovich found a leak on the main trunk coming out from Fulton (Well 1). The leak was repaired and reduced the demand by 150,000gpd.

Mr. Stauffer inquired as to the status of the water table as areas are being affected; in which, Mr. Morrison advised that there are no current issues being experienced.

Ms. Harris advised the Board that Staff recently discovered inconsistencies in the billing rates of fire service charges. Ms. Harris further advised the affected accounts have been identified and will receive notifications of their corrected billing rate moving forward.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy E. Harris, P.E.
Secretary

SJF