

**EPHRATA BOROUGH AUTHORITY
MINUTES – OCTOBER 11, 2021**

A meeting of the Ephrata Borough Authority was held on Monday, October 11, 2021, at 8:00 AM in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 124 South State Street. In attendance were Chairman Ralph Mowen; Treasurer Gil Ochs; and Member Gregory Zimmerman. Absent were Vice Chairman Gary Snively and Assistant Treasurer Gail Bare.

Also present were James R. McManus, III, Solicitor; Dan Becker, Becker Engineering; D. Robert Thompson, Secretary; Debra Bartow, Assistant Borough Manager; Jamie Willwerth, Water and Wastewater Manager; David Burkholder, Project Engineer Manager; and Stephanie Fasnacht, Recorder.

Call to Order

Chairman Mowen called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, and unanimously approved to adopt the meeting agenda as publicly posted on the Borough's website, the EBA Board's meeting location as well as distributed to meeting attendees (if any).

Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2021

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2021, Meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Visitor Comments

There were no visitor comments.

Financial Reports

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to approve the financial reports. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to ratify the payment of bills. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Action Items

a. Becker Engineering: Invoice No. 21825

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the payment of \$300.00, Becker Engineering Invoice No. 21825, as recommended by Staff. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

b. Repeal July 12, 2021, Action by Authority Approving Requisition #1, Dated July 12, 2021, to Fulton Bank, Trustee, Payable to Bioforcetech

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to repeal the July 12, 2021, action taken by the Authority approving Requisition #1 (dated July 12, 2021), to Fulton Bank, Trustee, Payable to Bioforcetech. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

c. Bioforcetech Payment Request #1:

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve Requisition #1 (dated October 11, 2021), to Fulton Bank, Trustee, Payable to Bioforcetech. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

d. WWTF No. 1 Biosolids Project

Mr. Thompson advised that GHD has requested authorization to advertise the WWTF No. 1 Biosolids Project for public bidding. Mr. Becker confirmed an advertising date of October 20, 2021, with December 1, 2021, being the deadline for the submission of bids.

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to approve the authorization for GHD to advertise the WWTF No. 1 Biosolids Project for public bidding with a submission deadline of December 1, 2021. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

e. Pioneer Management, LLC Request

Mr. Burkholder advised that Pioneer Management, LLC, submitted a Gate Detail for review and consideration. Mr. Burkholder advised based on direction from Clay Township, Lincoln Land Group, the developer of both Home Towne Square and Wyndale, is requesting approval to install an unlocked swing arm style gate to provide separation of the two communities. Mr. Burkholder further advised this design would allow for signage to be attached acknowledging each communities' restrictions while allowing the Authority uninterrupted access to their easement if needed.

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the request to install an unlocked swing arm style gate to provide separation of Home Town Square and Wyndale, Clay Township. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

f. Establishment of Service Awards

Mr. Thompson inquired if the Board would be interested in establishing service awards to recognize Board Members and Staff for their years of service to the Authority upon the completion of their term/service. Staff provided an example of a possible service award which would consist of four (4) customized Authority drink coasters and a personalized coaster holder which would display a plaque engraved with the person's name and years of service.

Motion by Mr. Ochs, seconded by Mr. Zimmerman, to approve the establishment of service awards to recognize Board members and Staff for their years of service to the Authority upon the completion of their term/service. The Board was in agreement that the service award would consist of four (4) customized Authority drink coasters and a personalized coaster holder. The Board advised Staff to place an order for 25 customized coasters and five (5) coaster holders.

g. Becker Engineering: Proposal for Consulting Services by D. Robert Thompson

Mr. Thompson advised it was previously discussed with the Board that upon his retirement in January 2022, he would be willing to continue serving the Board in the role of a consultant. Mr. Thompson advised he has since met with Dan Becker,

Becker Engineering, and an agreement was made in which Mr. Thompson would become an employee of Becker Engineering for this specific purpose. Mr. Thompson advised that a copy of the Proposal for his consulting services was included in the meeting packet for the Board's review which states the initial term will be six (6) months with the option to extend the term upon mutual consent.

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to approve Becker Engineering's Proposal for consulting services to be provided by D. Robert Thompson, effective January 17, 2022. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Operations Report

Mr. Willwerth provided the following report:

Plant 1

- Average Flow at Plant 1 for September was 2.84 MGD (Design Flow = 3.8 MGD). The high 24-hour recorded flow from Hurricane Ida was 6.87 MGD from 09/01/21 to 09/02/21.
- The Plant recorded 9.9 inches of rain for the month. The Hurricane event caused the OD to have an overflow spill through the mounting cuts for aerators in the outside wall. Solids spilled out into the grass areas around the tank and into the back field area. Staff was in contact with DEP before and after the rain event. A report will be submitted with the September DMR of the Hurricane event.
- Sludge Hauled in September – We had 18 pulls at a cost of \$7,492.00 for Eagle Disposal to transport to the landfill. The estimated cost for LCSWMA is \$16,000.00 for a total sludge disposal cost in September of \$23,492.00 (estimated).
- Process Control – The SVI (Sludge Volume Index) monthly average is 43. September's Ammonia Nitrogen average was 0.38 mg/l (limit 2.0 mg/l mo. avg.) Total Phosphorus average is 0.66 mg/l (limit 2.0 mg/l mo. avg.)
- Maintenance personnel are working on valve replacement to old and aging valves in the Primary Digester Building currently. Process water pump installation (internal plant process water) at Plant 1 should be completed by month's end. Gear box replacement on oxidation ditch at Plant 2 to a main aeration drive unit was completed during the week of 09/20/21 which was a Capital Project at a cost of \$67,465.00. Another gear box and end bearing is being budgeted for 2022 Capital Project costs.
- Plant 1 had Cyanide violations in August which is a new permit parameter to the Permit from DEP – Avg. Mo. Concentration of 0.011/l (0.008 mg/l limit) and Daily Max of 0.025 mg/l (0.013 mg/l limit). No violations in September all within compliance limit. Reviewing internal process control.

Plant 2

- Average Flow at Plant 2 for September was 1.914 MGD (Design Flow = 2.3 MGD). The high 24-hour flow was at 6.10 MGD on 09/02/21.
- The Plant recorded 9.5 inches of rain which did not cause any issues. Hurricane Ida knocked out aeration drives during rain event to the OD due to high level in the basin during Hurricane Ida. This caused the drives to go into a thermal overload to the VFD controls to the aeration drives. When flows subsided, units were reset and restored to normal operations.

- Plant 2 had a Bis Ethylhexyl Phthalate violation in August which is a new parameter. Result was a Mo. Avg. of 0.004 mg/l (Limit 0.003 mg/l) and a Daily Max exceedance of 0.012 (Limit 0.005 mg/l). Reviewed sampling procedures using only glass containers for collection and we are using Teflon tubing on all samplers at both plants to limit plastic leaching into sample collection. September samples were all within compliance limits.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date is Monday, November 8, 2021.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Zimmerman, seconded by Mr. Ochs, to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:51 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

D. Robert Thompson
Secretary