

Orwigsburg Municipal Authority
Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020

The Orwigsburg Municipal Authority met on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Borough Hall. Chairman Rod Schaeffer called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

In Attendance: Chairman Rod Schaeffer; Vice Chairman John Boyer; Members: Randy Lindenmuth and Bill Bandholz. Borough Manager Randy Miller and Borough Secretary Sherry Edwards.

Visitors: Water/Sewer Supervisor Dave Teter; Bryon Killian of Entech Engineering.

Minutes

A motion to approve the December 9, 2019 meeting minutes as presented was made by John Boyer, second by Randy Lindenmuth. Unanimous.

Treasurers Report

A motion to approve the Treasurers Report for March 9, 2020 was made by John Boyer, second by Bill Bandholz. Unanimous.

Engineers Report

Bryon Killian presented Entech's report:

A draft copy of the Chapter 94 report was distributed to the authority member for their review. Overall summary on how the collection system is doing and if any issues. Plenty of capacity available both hydraulically and organically. Two overflows have been reported in the report, overflows will hopefully be addressed with the grants submitted.

2020 NPDES permit draft has been received. Permit is for the ability to discharge wastewater into the streams of the Commonwealth. DEP is ratcheting back on the limits of heavy metals (lead, copper, zinc) Borough needs to comply with the copper limit four years after permit is officially issued. A (TRE) Toxic Reduction Evaluation Study which will require a years' worth of sampling will need to be done. DEP has come up with very conservative default values which will make it difficult to comply. To raise the default value you need to prove to DEP that their limit is too conservative. DEP Guidance documents are from 1990 and are now being enforced. Primarily the copper comes from the residential water service lines. Bryon noted no capital improvements or treatment need to be done at the plant at this time; the borough needs to prove the copper limit needs to be raised in the model. TRE Study can cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$100,000. On the corrosion side we need to generate a Sampling Plan and look at different sources, there are some things that can be done operationally for instance sludge management and PH control.

Lowered the ammonia concentrations after four years, also lowered the BOD limit from 25 to 22. After final permit is received we have 6 months to submit a work plan; 30 months after that we need to submit the TRE study and site specific data; 3 years from permit effective date we need to submit the final Water Quality Base Effluent Limits Compliance Report.

Costs between \$50,000 and \$100,000 mostly for engineering and sampling. Borough's limit is .01 and sampling came back as .322, .087, .082. Maybe something we can do on the water side to help prevent corrosion. Can remove copper through sludge management or out the effluent. Copper contribution is coming from residents' property service lines.

Borough is below the water standards for copper; copper testing on the water side is done every three years, was just done in 2019. Stream at plant is classified as a Class A trout stream. Bryon will keep us updated.

Old Business

Bryon will set up a site visit when weather warms up with a local authority that has a sewage press in operation. Possibly with Frackville who is comparable to our size. Frackville also has digester covers we can take a look at for our digesters. Covers keep the heat in – we meet Class B Bio Solids during the summer but not in winter months. These covers will allow the plant to meet a Class B Bio Solids all year round.

Grant applications update: Bryon noted July 14th is the new revised date for approval of projects.

Bryon will compile a list of small I & I projects (between \$25,000 and \$50,000) for the summer in the Cresswell Acre area for borough employees to tackle; accomplish something until grant notification is received.

A brief discussion was held on seeking proposals for a Solicitor. Does not need to be advertised.

New Business

Randy M informed the Authority that Borough Council is looking at refinancing the borough's debt service. Currently with the Coronavirus, fuel prices and the stock market tanking it's a really good time to refinance our bond; we're in a 90-day window to take advantage of significant savings. Borough intends to wrap around at the end and extend the issue back to 15 years which will be a cost savings on an annual basis.

Considering the following projects:

- WWTP
 - Diffuser
 - Blowers
 - Digester covers
 - Dewatering press
 - Collection system

- WTP –
Adding new chemical to system
- Borough stormwater and street repairs

Current dept service is 5.5 million, adding 6 million for projects. Refinancing and adding wrap around, will be paid off in 2038. Currently annual payment is \$675,000 – new annual will be \$668,000.

Council is close to an agreement with the Rhodes Organization to settle the lawsuits. If all goes well, they will be submitting a new plan for development; combination of townhomes and condos – number of units decreased from 400 to 324. A zoning overlay district will need to be created to accommodate the plan. Borough will need to look at increasing water capacity with DRBC and already had discussions with Schuylkill Haven Borough on an interconnect agreement. Bryon will have the opportunity to review the water and sewer portion of the new plan submission. Tapping fees will be put into reserves for future plant repairs and upgrades.

Dave Teter informed the authority that two reed beds (#5 and #6) will need to be cleaned this year.

Solicitor Datte is in the proseses of reviewing the West Brunswick Township agreement that was part of the plant expansion and transferred to SCMA. Looking to sit down with SCMA and negotiate a new agreement.

Bills

A motion to ratify payment of invoice #66564 from Entech Engineering in the amount of \$909.40 was made by John Boyer, second by Randy Lindenmuth. Unanimous.

A motion to approve invoice dated January 7, 2020 from the Orwigsburg Borough in the amount of \$13,650.64 for Randy Miller and Sherry Edwards 2020 payroll was made by John Boyer, second by Randy Lindenmuth. Unanimous.

Next meeting of the Authority is scheduled for June 8, 2020 @ 1:00 in Council Chambers.

On a motion made by John Boyer, second by Bill Bandholz the meeting was adjourn at 2:05pm. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry M. Edwards
Borough Secretary