Huntingdon Borough Water & Sewer Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 1, 2021

The Huntingdon Borough Water & Sewer Committee meeting was held in the Borough Council Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652, virtually by Webex Conference and in-person.

Committee members present were Chairman Sean Steeg and Councilman James Bair.

Members present were Councilman David Quarry, Councilman David Fortson, Councilwomen Dee Dee Brown, Borough Engineer Ann Reynolds, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Steve Williams, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Roger Shaffer, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Member virtually was President Johnathan Hyde.

Guest present was Vic Couturiaux (HRI).

Chairman Sean Steeg called the Water & Sewer Committee meeting at 3:31 PM.

Chairman Sean Steeg recognized the guest present and said they are on the agenda below.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on the Water Treatment Plant Supervisors report.

Steve Williams asked if there were any questions on his report.

Chris Stevens said they found 1 water main break and 2 service lines that were leaking.

Chris Stevens said Goodman’s was placing a flow meter on Huntingdon Composite’s fire line.

Chris Stevens said they closed the 2 inch meter and left open the 8 inch meter at the Walmart Plaza and things seem to be ok.

Chris Stevens said at the plaza off of 4th Street, they have 1 meter pit and on the stores, there are some meters that belong to Huntingdon Borough and some of them are theirs.

Chris Stevens said we need to think about putting in a meter pit with a 2 inch meter at the Mat Plaza and they can bill their customers.

Chris Stevens said the Post Office has a 2 inch water line with a ¾ inch fire protection line and they are working with them on this issue.

Chris Stevens said that Maintenance is still looking for water leaks.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked if there were any objections to putting in a meter pit with a 2 inch meter at Mat Plaza and have them bill their customers.

**There were no objections to putting in a meter pit with a 2 inch meter at Mat Plaza and have them bill their customers. Committee agreed.**

Chris Stevens said that Ann Reynolds was checking on prices of meters and calibration of meters. Chris said at the institution, they have to pull the whole meter and we need to buy a spare for a backup.

Steve Williams said that if we pull a meter, this same meter needs to go back in by DEP regulations.

Chris Stevens said we need to start on the big meters to calibrate them.

Chairman Sean Steeg said we need to look at what we can spend on these for Ann Reynolds to find out.

Steve Williams said there is a lot of revenue lost and doesn’t think there is a leak but thinks it’s in the meters.

Ann Reynolds asked about the accounting system.

Chris Stevens said the billings are behind. Chris said that when you read in January, that this is for water usage in November.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisors report.

Roger Shaffer asked if there were any questions on his report.

Roger Shaffer reported that the Wet Test is in, reports to DEP and EPA are done, Bio-solids test is in.

Roger Shaffer said he has received the Certified Receipt back from K & L Planting that they have picked up their packet, and that a draft permit was included that they need to fill out.

Roger said they continue to check the manhole.

Chris Stevens said their bathroom was running and this brought their water usage up. Chris said they have purchased 1 EDU and if they continue to use water, they will need to purchase another EDU.

Ann Reynolds said in their permit, they are to have zero discharge.

Roger Shaffer said the Methanol Tank inspection was completed and this is good for 5 years.

Roger Shaffer said the DEP permit to discharge was good for 10 years and now it is 5 years. Roger said the Methanol Tank inspector said don’t be surprised if they don’t drop this to 3 years.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked about painting.

Roger Shaffer said that when the weather breaks they will be in to paint the Methanol Tanks.

Roger Shaffer said the sludge pump in the Administration building that they use for the press is leaking. Roger said in 2009 they rebuilt this with a gasket and would like to have a kit on hand. Roger said he called and they have a pump on stock. Roger said a rebuild kit 2 years ago cost around $4,000.00. Roger said he got a quote on a new pump and the price was $10,208.70.

Roger Shaffer said his recommendation would be to go with the new pump. Roger said the old pump had around 30,000 hours on it.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked what would we do with the old pump.

Roger Shaffer said we would keep this and use for parts.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked if the quote include shipping.

Roger Shaffer said they will not give shipping cost until it was shipped. Roger said it would probably be $250.00 to $350.00.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked if there were any objection to purchasing the new sludge pump and said this was still under the bidding and quote’s threshold.

**There were no objections in purchasing the sludge pump in the amount of $10,208.70 plus shipping. Committee Agreed.**

Roger Shaffer said the computer they use to enter the lab information is Windows 7 and when you enter information, it might be there the next time or not. Roger said the server does do a backup.

Roger Shaffer said for a new computer with Windows 10 would cost around $1,400.00 and said that Thermal Processing is willing to work with Dave Myers on putting information on this computer.

**There were no objections in purchasing a new computer with Windows 10 for around $1,400.00. Committee agreed.**

Roger Shaffer said their new permit has everything on it with 3 big test they have to do. Roger said he does not see any red flags.

Roger Shaffer said that GHD is doing real good in working with them.

James Bair asked if all of our permits are up to date.

Roger Shaffer said they are up to date.

Ann Reynolds said the permit to withdrawal water from Standing Stone is pending.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on the Engineer’s report.

Ann Reynolds said the NPDES permit renewal you have to submit 6 months prior to the permit expiring on February 28, 2022, so it will be due to DEP by August 31, 2021.

Ann Reynolds said the 2020 Chapter 94 loadings report has been submitted. Ann said this report was reviewed by Roger Shaffer prior to electronic submission to DEP.

Ann Reynolds said that Kevin Nester has done his annual inspections of both plants and she will have his reports for next month’s meeting.

Ann Reynolds said they are still working on the Risk & Threats vulnerability.

Chris Stevens said they are still working on the SCADA and Ann said yes.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on Vic Couturiaux (HRI) to discuss the 4th Street CSO project.

Chris Stevens asked Vic Couturiaux to explain why he is here.

Vic Couturiaux said he was there to talk about the prevailing wages and that the State & Federal rates had gone up in 2021. Vic said the prevailing wages for the classes for employee’s would be a lot of money and he is looking at getting reimbursed. Vic said this applies to the subcontractors also.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked if he had an actual amount for this increase.

Vic Couturiaux said you can look at the certified payroll at the end an calculate this amount.

Chairman Sean Steeg said he would like to have a ballpark figure.

Vic Couturiaux said that for labor, equipment rates and fuel would be around $10,000.00 to $12,000.00 for labor and around $15,000.00 for equipment.

Chris Stevens said there was a manhole that was brick and probably 100 years old and it was deep, said there was terracotta pipe on one side and nothing on the other side. Chris said there was no ladder rungs to get down in.

Vic Couturiaux said that this line is probably blocked.

Chris Stevens said that HRI had agreed to time and material to replace this manhole at a cost around $50,000.00.

Chris Stevens said that Travis Gutshall drove a truck and went and got stone for this to help.

Vic Couturiaux said there were clay dykes put in the line and it was agreed to not put them all in and this will save you some money and said there were other items that will not hit the quantity for further savings.

Chris Stevens said that he and Travis Gutshall have been there almost every day and some of the line items might be up and some might be down. Chris said we could do a change order on this.

Chris Stevens said that Allegheny Street from 2nd to 6th Street is open, from Allegheny Street to Penn Street is closed and Mifflin Street to Church Street is closed.

Chris Stevens said that HRI has Grannas Bros. to do their paving and if we approve, we could have our paving done with theirs and this will save money.

Vic Couturiaux said that the mobilization of them bringing in their equipment would be on HRI and not the borough if this is done.

James Bair asked about PennDOT opening up the bridge to Allegheny Street.

Vic Couturiaux said we are looking at about 6 weeks.

Chris Stevens said that PennDOT does not want to move their signage for 4th Street to open.

Dee Dee Brown said this project is improving our community and if you live in the borough then you should know how to get around thru town.

James Bair talked about the rain and flooding and not be able to get out of town.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked Vic Couturiaux for an estimated price increase on subcontractors.

Dee Dee Brown said that she appreciated Vic Couturiaux coming to this meeting to explain.

Chris Stevens said they are making good time on the project.

Chris Stevens said we will figure out a way to camera 5th Street to 4th Street.

Chairman Sean Steeg asked if there was any other discussion on the rates.

Chairman Sean Steeg said if we are dealing with $50,000.00, he has no objections but he would like to have a ballpark figure.

Ann Reynolds said that you could use some of the stimulus money.

Chris Stevens said that we will receive our first check in the amount of $343,000.00 and if we put towards the police department wages $275,000.00, this will leave $68,000.00 that we could put toward this.

**The Water & Sewer Committee agreed to approve the change order of State & Federal prevailing wages increase. Motion Carried.**

Vic Couturiaux said the borough employees were very cooperative and he appreciated this.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on the Borough Managers report.

Chris Stevens said that HRI has submitted Application #3 for payment in the amount of $63,491.40 for work on the 4th Street CSO project.

**The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to approve payment of Application #3 in the amount of $63,491.40 for work on the 4th Street CSO Project to HRI.**

Chris Stevens said the Water Quality report is completed and ready to mail out.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

Chairman Sean Steeg called on any other business.

Vic Couturiaux said that he would be glad to come to this monthly meeting if we want him to, so he could update us on the project.

The committee agreed to have Vic Couturiaux come and update the committee.

After no further business the Water & Sewer Committee meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Minutes submitted by,  
  
  
  
Richard S. King  
Borough Secretary