Huntingdon Borough Water & Sewer Committee Meeting

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

The Huntingdon Borough Water & Sewer Committee meeting was held in the Borough Conference Room, 530 Washington Street, Huntingdon, PA 16652.

Guest present were Jennifer Clark, Gary Cramer and Joseph Thompson.

Members present were President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Mayor Thomas Yoder, Borough Engineer Kevin Nester, Borough Engineer Andy Glitzer, Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor Roger Shaffer, Borough Manager Chris Stevens and Borough Secretary Richard King.

Chairman David Quarry called the Water & Sewer Committee meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

Chairman David Quarry recognized the guest present and asked for their comments.

Gary Cramer asked about Blair Park and financing when the borough owns this property.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the Parks & Road Association owns this property.

Chairman David Quarry called on the Water Treatment Plant Supervisors report.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens asked if there were any questions on Kevin Johnston’s report?

President James Bair asked how the plant was doing during the rain.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the plant is doing good and when it rains, there was 80 million gallons going over the dam and then it drops to around 30 million gallons.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that lightning struck the 19th Street pumping station and the Westminster pumping station. Chris said the 19th Street pumping stations has been repaired.

Chairman David Quarry called on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor’s report.

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

Roger Shaffer said that the sensor for the grit bridge had gone bad and this was replaced.

Roger Shaffer said the sensor went bad on the filters and they are down to one filter, which they are running manually. Roger said they have received a quote for $14,000 and for 2 it was $32,405 and installed, which is good until August 8th and they are a Costars Vendor.

Roger Shaffer said they will be having Nutrient Credits for sale again and he has not had any phone calls. Roger said that he would like for GHD to initiate this and get a price and start making phone calls for someone to purchase the credits.

Roger Shaffer spoke on the Pretreatment report that is sent to EPA and DEP and said they receive a score on this. Roger said on Category 1, it was missing 2 pollutants, which they were told before they did not have to do.

Roger Shaffer said that Fairway Labs now Pace Labs does not do these and one will have to go to Pittsburgh and the other one to West Virginia.

Roger Shaffer said they are also adding an environmental fee to the cost, which will put the lab testing’s cost up.

Roger Shaffer spoke on the Chapter 94 that was submitted to EPA and DEP and said they have received a response on what they did not like. Roger said there were things missing from Smithfield, Oneida and Walker Township that they are working on and this should take care of it.

Chairman David Quarry called on the Borough Engineer’s report.

Kevin Nester said we had a meeting with DEP on the CSO and permit and things went good. Kevin said that DEP is being pushed by EPA. Kevin said the permit is good for 5-years and DEP is looking for a schedule on the progress of the CSO’s removals to be placed in the permit.

Chairman David Quarry called on the Borough Manager’s report.

Chris Stevens said the Water & Sewer Authority held their public meeting and they are recommending that we budget a 25% increase in Water & Sewer the first year and a 5% increase for Water and 10% increase for Sewer, the next 4 years be placed in the budget. Chris said he has checked around and we are close to the other communities on what they charge.

Chris Stevens said that the Water rates have not changed in 10 years & Sewer rates have not changed in 15 years and they should have been. Chris said that the chemicals have increase 400%.

Chris Stevens said that we are looking at a new vac truck costing around $700,000 and the Final Clarifiers will be about $1.2 million, and we have applied for a grant but have not heard back yet.

Chris Stevens said the Water & Sewer Authority will be reviewing this every year in July so we can prepare for the budget.

President James Bair said that we need to hold a public hearing on this to inform them and to do this before the September meeting. James said that we will need to send out letters.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that with the 25% raise in Water & Sewer rates, residents will see about a $20 per month increase in their Water & Sewer bills.

Joseph Thompson asked if this is going to be discussed at the August Borough Council meeting.

President James Bair said yes and that Councilman David Quarry will be discussing this.

Chairman David Quarry called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

Chairman David Quarry called on new business.

There was nothing reported under new business.

Executive Session was not called for.

After no further business, the Water & Sewer Committee meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary