Huntingdon Borough Water & Sewer Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 5, 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, Linda DeArmitt and Joseph Thompson.

Members present were President James Bair, Vice-President David Fortson, Councilman David Quarry, Councilman Robert Jackson, Councilwoman Dee Dee Brown, Councilman Terry Green, Councilwoman Jennifer Powell, Borough Engineer Kevin Nester, Borough Engineer Andy Glitzer, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor Kevin Johnston, 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 2:32 PM.

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

There were no comments made by the guest present.

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

Kevin Johnston asked if there were any questions on his report.

Kevin Johnston said they will be flushing fire hydrants on Wednesday, September 13th, Thursday, September 14th and Friday, September 15th if needed.

Kevin Johnston said the sodium tank had gone bad and they had fixed this.

Kevin Johnston said he has received the Hach contract and the amount of this was $24,375.00. Kevin said this has gone up. Kevin reminded everyone that this has saved the borough money.

**The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to renew the contract with Hach at a cost of $24,375.00.**

Kevin Johnston said that DEP will be coming in 2-weeks for a follow up.

Jennifer Clark asked Kevin Johnston if he has received many surveys back?

Kevin Johnston said yes, that he has been getting a lot of phone calls and emails.

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 the VFD and a Trickling Filter motor had gone bad. Roger said the transition had gone smooth replacing the VFD, and the Trickling Filter motor being repaired, along with the insurance company.

Roger Shaffer spoke on the institutions and having to take the Jet Vac over to unclog their sewer lines. Roger said this is a nightmare.

Roger Shaffer talked about what they have to go thru to get inside and the guys are saying this is not part of their job description.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said the institutions are billed every time they go in.

Roger Shaffer said that he cannot find anywhere where there is an agreement or contract with the institutions to do this.

Roger Shaffer said the E-Cigarettes are a big deal coming to the plant. Roger said that we should penalize them or fine them for this.

Roger Shaffer said that Chris Stevens and he will meet with them on not going in anymore.

Roger Shaffer said that the end of the month they had around 2,200 Nitrogen Credits.

President James Bair asked what future projects do you have coming.

Roger Shaffer said the Final Clarifiers have been on the list and a new Jet Vac Truck.

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

Kevin Nester said they have started working on the chemical bids for the 2024 year.

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

Chris Stevens said we have money at FNB tied up for the 500 Block water line replacement for PennDOT, and he is trying to get a letter from PennDOT to release these funds, where it will be placed back into the water account.

Chris Stevens spoke on the Cemetery Accounts at FNB Wealth Management and the interest rates we are getting on these accounts. Chris said about pulling these and place them with someone else to get a better interest rate.

Chris Stevens said that Richard King and he will be attending a ZOOM meeting on the Health Insurance renewal with Mutual Benefit Services on September 22nd. Chris said that last year they mentioned that rates would go up anywhere from 10% to 20%.

Chris Stevens said last year’s meeting they had mentioned about another health insurance that eliminates the hospital in Pittsburgh and by going this way would save 10%

Chris Stevens said after we get our numbers, we will meet with the Health Insurance Cost Containment Committee.

Chairman David Quarry called on old business.

There was nothing reported under old business.

Chairman David Quarry called on new business.

Chairman David Quarry said that we have reviewed the Water & Sewer Authority recommendation on the water & sewer rates not being raised in years and their recommendations of a 25% adjustment for both.

Borough Manager Chris Stevens said that this was not approved by the Water & Sewer Committee.

**The Water & Sewer Committee recommends a motion to raise the water rates 25% and sewer rates 25% to be effective December 1, 2023.**

Chairman David Quarry said this will be reviewed yearly by the Water & Sewer Authority.

**Executive Session was called for personnel issues at 3:00 PM.**

**Executive Session ended at 3:10 PM with no action taken.**

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

Minutes submitted by,

Richard S. King
Borough Secretary