

Weaverland Valley Authority

Meeting Minutes

March 8, 2021

The Board of the Weaverland Valley Authority (“Authority”) met at the East Earl Township building 4610 Division Hwy, East Earl, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on March 8, 2021. Chairman Ken Witmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Ken Witmer, Harold Kilhefner, Gene Pierce, Tom McDermott, Scot Ash, Scott Marburger, Randy Miller, and Jason Firestine. Also present were Gary Martin, Becker Engineering; Charles Haley, ELA; and Denise Bensing, Administrator.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Tom McDermott, seconded by Randy Miller, that the minutes of the February 8, 2021 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. M.J. Reider lab reports (Shady Maple) February.
2. Impact Engineering (Horst Farm Market) – Comments/Revision after Review #3. Gary noted that their plans are all finished and approved.
3. Becker Engineering – Fire Line Record Drawings.
4. PA DEP – Operational Permit for Corrosion Controls for the Terre Hill wells.
5. Pyfer Reese Straub Gray & Farhat (Jordan Sensenig Attorney)- CC’d on letter to Township regarding the deck addition. The board asked Gary to contact Spotts, Stevens & McCoy to see if they have any information regarding the easement.
6. Penalty Waiver requests due to either customers not receiving their bill or the Authority not receiving their payment.
Weaverland View – Account #10439 \$78.15; #10141 \$46.50; #10142 \$46.50; #10143 \$23.25
Paul & Thelma Hurst – Account #20230 \$28.68
Abigail Weaver/Dean Zimmerman - #20136 \$23.39
Tom McDermott made a motion to approve all the penalty waivers, seconded by Scott Marburger. Motion carried unanimously.
7. Lighthouse Church – The church noticed an increase in their water usage beginning with the 3rd quarter billing and in early February they found that they had a water leak outside of the well pit. The church is requesting an adjustment to the sewer charges since the water didn’t go in the sewer system. Denise reported that their average consumption is 16,000 gallons a quarter. Their 3rd quarter consumption was 58,000 gallons and 4th quarter was 112,000 gallons. This would be 138,000 over their average consumption for the 3rd and 4th quarter of 2020. This would equate to an adjustment of \$917.70. The consumption for the 1st quarter of 2021 will not be known until the meters are read in March. Scot Ash made a motion to adjust the sewer charges for the 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 by \$(917.70), seconded by Scott Marburger. Motion carried unanimously. Scot Ash made a motion to adjust the 1st quarter 2021 sewer charges based on the average consumption after the meters are read, seconded by Scott Marburger. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Denise reported that the new meter reading equipment has been received and installed. Gene from L/B Water will provide some training prior to the meters being read. Denise also noted that the actual cost of the equipment was \$5,775 instead of the \$6,825 that the Authority was quoted.

The Statement of Financial Interest form was distributed to each board member. Denise asked the board members to have them returned to her no later than May 1, 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial report was read with \$115,244.64 (Sewer \$78,564.87 Water \$36,679.77) in bills for approval.

Water & Sewer Collection Fund	\$195,174.44
Business Checking Water Fund – ENB	\$100,000.00
FDIC Insured Sweep Account – Water	\$765,542.91
FDIC Insured Sweep Account - Sewer	\$1,676,319.39
Business Checking Sewer Fund - ENB	\$250,000.00
FDIC Insured Sweep Account – Fulton	\$1,026,249.47
Joint WWTP Business Checking – Fulton Bank	\$2,500.00
Joint WWTP Business Checking – Ephrata National Bank	\$2,500.00

A motion was made by Gene Pierce to approve the financial report and pay the bills, seconded by Jason Firestone. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEERS’ REPORT:

Chuck Haley reported that there has been some progress from USDA. Kelly Green, State Environmental Coordinator, has been in touch with the Delaware Tribe and is waiting on a map to determine what area needs to be monitored. When this area is defined, USDA will need a letter from the Authority confirming a commitment to implement the requested monitoring and committing the financial responsibility to retain the monitor. After the USDA receives the commitment letter and the Delaware Tribe approves it, USDA will send a letter to the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe requiring their comments within 15 business days. If they don’t respond in that timeframe, USDA will close the matter. The Authority will then need to run the FONSI in the paper. After the 14-day FONSI comment period expires the supplemental Environmental Assessment will be officially approved.

Judith Tutino will be retiring 4/2/21 and is committed to reviewing and approving the construction documents prior to her retirement. She requested an updated set of plans be delivered to her office the week of March 7th and she feels she will be able to complete the review and approval before her retirement.

Judith requested a conference call with the engineers to discuss the American Steel Act compliance requirements. The meeting has been set up for March 22nd. It is expected that the Authority will be able to release the project for bid in the next 2-3 months.

Gene Pierce made a motion for Ken to sign a letter agreeing to the construction monitoring requirements for the Delaware Tribe, seconded by Tom McDermott. Motion carried unanimously.

Gary Martin reported:

Timberline Estates: Gary reported the 21 of the 26 properties are permitted and 17 are active. There is a meeting scheduled toward the end of the month to discuss dedication.

Chapter 94 to DEP: Wet weather flows are still one of the main concerns. The wet weather puts the projected flows above the permitted capacity. DEP is aware that a new plant is planned. Without a new plant on the horizon, this wet weather influence could see DEP imposing a moratorium. Harold Kilhefner made a motion to allow the chairperson to sign the signature page, seconded by Randy Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

USDA: Gary noted that he and Rob will complete the E500 and submit it to Judith this week.

Terre Hill Water System: The corrosion control project is complete.

The board discussed the summary of the funds expended for applying to USDA, alternative financing and the common project costs. It was noted that although there has been progress with USDA, there is no guarantee that they will continue to move forward. Gene Pierce made a motion to continue to proceed with preparing the Application Package but to not submit the package to Standard and Poor’s Rating Agency, seconded by Scot Ash. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Frank Mincarelli distributed his report via email which included discussions regarding the status of the USDA funding and also alternative financing. He revised the draft access easement across the Zimmerman lot in the Twin Springs Industrial Park and forwarded it the Mr. Zimmerman.

Frank participated in a telephone conference with the Township solicitor regarding the Sensenig lot and the steps being taken by the Authority to establish the existence and ownership of a utility easement across the Sensenig’s property. The Township solicitor informed Frank that they will not pursue the building permit issue at this time

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Bruce's report was distributed in his absence. Bruce noted that there were multiple callouts to the treatment plant for high influent flow. There were also multiple call outs to the well houses. All the Terre Hill wells are running with the new treatment. It was also noted that the water meter at the Jordan Sensenig's garage has not yet been inspected.

DAY-TO-DAY COMMITTEE: Harold reported that the committee discussed additional help for the time while Tom is out. The committee decided to advertise for the position on Indeed at no cost to the Authority. Three different ads were placed with varying qualifications. At the time of the meeting, approximately 14 resumes were received. Bruce will review the resumes next week.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

196 Broad St. meter for water tower (former Flower & Home Marketplace) – Jason reported that his employer is working with the property owner.

Having no further business, Harold Kilhefner moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m., seconded by Scott Marburger. The next meeting will be held on April 12, 2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise A. Bensing

Cc: Scot Ash
Harold Kilhefner
Scott Marburger
Randy Miller
L. Eugene Pierce
Kenneth Witmer
Jason Firestine
Thomas McDermott
East Earl Township
Terre Hill Borough
Robert Rissler
Charles Haley, ELA
Gary Martin, Becker Engineering
Frank Mincarelli, Blakinger Thomas