

**BOROUGH OF KUTZTOWN
WATER/WASTEWATER COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES OF October 11, 2023**

A regular meeting of the Water/Wastewater Committee was held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, at the Kutztown Municipal Building, 45 Railroad Street.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 PM. by Mr. Ed Seyler, Chairman. Members present were: Mr. Ed Seyler, Dr. Derek Mace, and Ms. Lisa Ladd-Kidder. Also in attendance: Mr. Gabriel Khalife, Borough Manager; Mr. Troy Smith, Water Plant Manager; and Mr. Mike Miller, Sewer Plant Manager. Public Attendance: Janna Gregonis and Anne Franke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 9, 2023, meeting minutes were reviewed by members. Motion by Ms. Ladd-Kidder and seconded by Dr. Mace to approve the August 9, 2023 minutes as written. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

The September 13, 2023 minutes were reviewed by members. Motion by Ms. Ladd-Kidder and seconded by Dr. Mace to approve the September 13, 2023 minutes as written. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

WATER UTILITIES

Water report:

Gallons pumped for September 2023 – 20,613,000

Daily average pumped September 2023 – 664,935

Precipitation for September 2023 – 7.5"

Discuss 2024 Budget

Mr. Khalife reported that water numbers are much healthier this year than in previous years, but we are unsure if these numbers are reflecting true usage. In terms of budgeting, Mr. Khalife is not comfortable with the current numbers until they can be tested and make sure that calculations are accurate.

Mr. Seyler would like to know how the tiers put into place in 2023 affected the revenue. Mr. Khalife will look into a mock-run to assess the impact of the new tiers. Mr. Smith explained the need for a new truck for the water department. The current truck is 23 years old. The approximate cost to replace including plow is \$60,000. Mr. Smith also added the need to replace (2) VFDs on filters at the water plant. There are also DEP fees, etc. to consider.

Mr. Seyler commented on the potential for Water/Wastewater grants up to \$1,000,000 to be utilized for storm sewer replacement from Pine St. to Laurel St. The

possibility of doing this work in stages was discussed, with the need to obtain pricing and grant application information.

Water Capacity for proposed 129 Townhomes on Parcel Behind Hartman Road

Mr. Seyler asked how much water capacity the developers are looking for in this project. Mr. Kobularcik responded with the estimation of \$30,000 gallons per day. He also commented that there are (3) water lines owned by the Borough of Kutztown running through the property site of the proposed development project.

Mr. Kobularcik also noted that there is a new interceptor proposed for Maxatawny Township, which would potentially be used for this townhome development.

Ms. Ladd-Kidder commented that the Borough of Kutztown is taking their responsibility seriously regarding use and protection of our natural resources outside of the Borough, but using water from the Borough's water shed is a bigger concern, and use of Borough's sewer system could be an even bigger problem. The Borough currently has no agreement with Maxatawny about taking on more wastewater, and we are waiting to hear back from the DEP.

Mr. Kobularcik stated that he is just here to discuss preliminary plan/ potential for service, and noted the need for pre/post construction plans, information on existing water lines, and a full survey.

Mr. Seyler says that it will be easy to get Borough water to the location, but we need to look into whether we have the capacity. This matter will need to be revisited at a later date.

Dr. Mace noted that he likes the townhome plan, as higher density housing requires less infrastructure and a better payback for water service.

Ms. Gregonis stated that high-density homes will cost Maxatawny a lot of money in school taxes.

Ms. Franke commented to add that the schools are full, and while they may be able to absorb some kids, unlikely the number that could be added by building townhomes.

Mr. Smith responded that we are not able to stop development by not providing water service.

Off Agenda

Mr. Smith stated that the Water Department's continued repairs of several water leaks, via leak detection and corrections, have resulted in the water loss rate decreasing to 13%.

WASTEWATER UTILITIES

Sewer report:

Influent flow for September 2023 – 40,849,600

Effluent flow for September 2023 – 38,022,000

Daily Average Influent Flow September 2023 – 1,361,653

Melted precipitation September 2023 – 7.6"

2024 Budget

Mr. Khalife explained that the wastewater budget is healthier than the water budget.

Mr. Miller commented on the need to look for possible grants for upcoming wastewater improvements/projects. Highland Avenue will need a hydraulic overload cap.

We will not have a response regarding the grants to purchase a new sludge press until November. If not approved, we will need to borrow funds from KMA or the electric department.

We also need to do a mock -run to see how the billing tiers affected wastewater revenue.

Update on UV Bulbs

Mr. Miller stated that UV bulbs are on order, we received (3) quotes and prices are less than (2) years ago.

Sewer Credit for 165 Koffee Lane

Customer is requesting sewer credit for filling of swimming pool. The Borough is no longer accepting requests for pool filling sewer credit. According to DEP rules, water must be disposed of correctly (through the sewer) and must be treated prior to disposal.

C&B Development

Mr. Seyler explained that the original allocation of sewer capacity has been put back into the bank.

Ms. Gregonis explained that the Airport did not have enough water capacity for the initially planned plastic extrusion plant, and that allocation was given to C&B Development.

Mr. Seyler questioned Maxatawny township's limit in the Borough interceptor. Mr. Mooney, the Borough's attorney, is looking into this information. There is a need for further discussion of how many EDU's are available vs. what is needed for the project. Ms. Ladd-Kidder expressed her concern of risk of overextending our infrastructure to keep accommodating Maxatawny Township's developments.

Mr. Seyler stated that we also need to know how much wastewater is allowed to be put into Koffee Lane interceptor per the Borough's agreement with Maxatawny Township.

Off-Agenda Items

No off-agenda items were presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, motion by Dr. Mace and seconded by Ms. Ladd-Kidder to adjourn the meeting., The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi M Hermany