

WEAVERLAND VALLEY AUTHORITY

4610 Division Highway
East Earl, PA 17519 (717) 354-5593

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

April 10, 2023

1. OPEN MEETING

- A. **Minutes approval (March 13th)**
- B. **Public Comment** (public comment otherwise at time of each agenda item)
 - a. Loren Zimmerman – Frogtown Rd. property
 - b. Anthony Petersheim/Sauder Hardscape – Discuss connection without abandoning old lines

2. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES & OTHERS

A. Correspondence

Action Items:

- a. Penalty Waiver Request – 23 Gentle Dr.

B. **Administrative Report**—*Denise Bensing*

C. **Financial Report**—*Denise Bensing*

Action Items:

- a. Approval of Financial Report and pay the bills
- b. Approve WWTF & System Project Payment Requisition

D. **Engineer's Report**—*Becker Engineering*

Action Items:

- a. Authorize issuance of Route 625 road closing letter/email to impacted property owners.
- b. Blue Ball Water System/Twin Springs Connection - Conditionally Approve Construction Contracts
- c. New Holland Borough Capacity Evaluation for flow restrictions

E. **Solicitor's Report**—*Frank Mincarelli*

F. **Operations Report**—*Bruce Crabb*

- a. 2023 Mowing Proposals

G. **Day-to-Day Committee Report** – *Harold Kilhefner*

3. NEW BUSINESS

Action Items:

- a. Public Notification Proposal – Rave Alert

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Sunset Ave. St. - Line Replacement** (Water)

B. **Frogtown Rd. Pump Station Property** – Farm lease Loren Zimmerman

5. ADJOURN

Weaverland Valley Authority

Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2023

The Board of the Weaverland Valley Authority (“Authority”) met at the East Earl Township building 4610 Division Hwy, East Earl, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on April 10, 2023. Chairman Kenneth Witmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The following Board members were present: Kenneth Witmer, Harold Kilhefner, Scott Marburger, Gene Pierce, Jason Firestine, Terry Zook and Scot Ash. Also, present were Dan Becker, Becker Engineering; Rob Hallman, Becker Engineering; Bruce Crabb, Operations Supervisor; and Denise Bensing, Administrator.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Gene Pierce, seconded by Harold Kilhefner, that the minutes of the March 13, 2023 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Loren Zimmerman (Frogtown Rd. Property) – Mr. Zimmerman asked the board if they would reconsider asking fair market value (FMV) for the Frogtown Rd. property but instead set the buyback price at what the Authority paid for it. Gene explained that the Authority wants to be fair and part of being fair is not showing favoritism. Gene also noted that the sales agreement from when the property was purchased by the Authority includes the First Right of Refusal at FMV. Mr. Zimmerman asked how long until the Authority will sell it. Gene explained that although we currently don’t need a pump station on the property, nobody knows if a pump station will be needed there in the future but the Authority is offering to lease the land to be farmed for \$1.00 per year. The majority of the board agreed that if the property is ever sold, the price needs to be FMV.

Anthony Petersheim (Sauder Hardscape) – Mr. Petersheim attended representing Sauder Hardscape. He explained that the last review letter from Becker Engineering recommended that they abandon the existing water and sewer laterals. Mr. Petersheim is requesting that the board consider allowing them to use the existing laterals. Dan explained that there are three reasons why it was recommended to abandon the existing laterals. First, the sewer clean out is located in the turn lane of the newly installed driveway. This is a concern because, if there is a sewer issue, the Authority will need to block access to the driveway in order to work. Second, the distance to the proposed location of the grinder pump and the existing lateral connection to the main is quite long. This section of the lateral would be owned and maintained by the Authority. Last, there is concern with the condition of the existing laterals. Bruce is also concerned if the water laterals are connected to the active water main or the abandoned line. Mr. Petersheim said the developer would be willing to do a video investigation of the sewer line but they would prefer to not have to dig up the road to abandon the existing laterals. He also said it would be possible that the developer would be willing to be responsible for the grinder pump and lateral. Gene explained that he would be hesitant to make any decision other than what the engineer has recommended. He would also like to defer a decision so the Authority solicitor can be consulted regarding the property owner being responsible for the grinder pump and lateral. Dan recommended the developer provide a written request of what they would like to do.

CORRESPONDENCE:

1. M.J. Reider lab reports (Shady Maple) March – No surcharge for March.
2. WG Malden – Shady Maple 1st Quarter Calibration report. Equipment is operating properly.
3. Becker Engineering – Turkey Hill review letter #2.

4. Sauder Hardscape revised plans.
5. PA DEP – Water Quality Parameters (WQP) – The application was denied because too many grab samples exceeded the recommended range for phosphate. Bruce explained that an orthophosphate blend had been added to address the high lead and copper samples. They were not aware of the high and low thresholds. They were only aware that an average needed to be maintained. The average was maintained. Since receiving the notification, the samples have been within the thresholds. He explained that they may need to start over with the required samples.
6. DEP Chapter 94 – It was noted that the Terre Hill plant is organically overloaded. Dan reported that Becker responded that the Authority has discontinued accepting hauled waste.
7. East Earl Township – The Supervisors denied Terre Hill Mennonite High School’s request for waiver of the mandatory connection ordinance.
8. Blakinger Thomas – 10-day Intent to Lien Notices
9. PA DEP – Notice of new testing requirements for water.
10. PA DEP – Notice of Violation and Return to Compliance – Bruce reported that the error was due to the labs administrative error.
11. Smoker, 23 Gentle Dr. – The customer is requesting their penalty be waived. Gene Pierce made a motion to waive the penalty, seconded by Scott Marburger. Motion carried unanimously.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT:

Denise reported that the audit of the 2022 records has begun as well as the single audit as required by USDA. So far all is going well. The auditors have asked if the Authority has a written procurement policy. As part of the USDA compliance supplement, they are required to make sure there is a written policy in place. If there isn’t one in place, Denise may need to write one for the board to take action on in May.

The Authority insurance policy cost increased 2%. This is a fair increase because across the board the average increase is 10%.

Denise also thanked the operations staff for assisting with the meter reading after Ellie sprained her ankle.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Financial report was read with \$212,022.07 (Sewer \$149,966.48 Water \$62,055.59) in bills for approval.

Water & Sewer Collection Fund	\$3,526.86
Business Checking Water Fund – ENB	\$100,000.00
FDIC Insured Sweep Account – Water	\$947,174.10
FDIC Insured Sweep Account - Sewer	\$3,542,599.04
Business Checking Sewer Fund - ENB	\$250,000.00
FDIC Insured Sweep Account – Fulton	\$1,031,366.05
Joint WWTP Business Checking – Fulton Bank	\$2,383.20
Joint WWTP Business Checking – Ephrata National Bank	\$0.00

Denise also reported that a check was issued in between meetings for the interest due on the 2016 loan for the ETSA Upgrades in the amount of \$22,180.53. A motion was made by Jason Firestine to approve the financial

report and pay the bills, seconded by Terry Zook. Gene Pierce made a motion to amend the motion to include approving the check issued between meetings, seconded by Jason Firestine. Motion carried unanimously.

Denise presented Payment Requisition #11 and #11F for the WWTP and Conveyance System project. The amount of the requested loan advances are #11 \$1,225,206.81 from Ephrata National Bank and #11F \$93,301.14 from Fulton Bank. Jason Firestine made a motion to approve the WWTF & System Project Payment Requisition #11 in the amount of \$1,225,206.81, seconded by Harold Kilhefner. Motion carried unanimously. Gene Pierce made a motion to approve the WWTF & System Project Payment Requisition #11F in the amount of \$93,301.14, seconded by Jason Firestine. Motion carried unanimously.

ENGINEER’S REPORT:

Rob presented current drone footage of the construction site for the wastewater treatment facility (WWTF). The control building is under roof and the generator has been installed. Interior painting of the control building has also begun. Installation of the gravity sewer lines and service laterals along SR625 continues but has been progressing slowly due to all the rock. The north bound crew has installed approximately 75% of the line and south bound is approximately 50% complete. The current estimate is for the work on SR 625, including paving, to be completed by the end of July. Now that there is a better idea of the timing for SR625 reopening, Becker is recommending the Authority issue a letter providing an update on the project to the impacted property owners. Jason Firestine made a motion to authorize issuance of an update on the project to the impacted property owners, seconded by Terry Zook. Motion carried unanimously. Denise will also provide the update to the schools and have it posted on the Township’s Facebook page.

Dan Becker reported:

Turkey Hill: A review letter was issued on March 31, 2023 for the revised drawings that were received.

Verizon: Becker is still waiting on detailed design drawings for review. Becker reviewed the November 2014 tank inspection report. At that time, both the interior and exterior of the tank were in good condition. Becker contacted the tank coating consultant for a rehabilitation pricing. Currently, the estimated cost to wash, spot clean, and apply a new epoxy/urethane overcoat coating on the exterior of the tank would be approximately \$150,000. The estimated cost to sand blast, clean, and install new solid epoxy liner to the interior of the tank is estimated to cost approximately \$200,000. Dan would suggest that Verizon provide a written offer for the Authority’s review.

New Holland Borough Flow Restrictions: A proposal was received from Bucharth Horn, New Holland Borough engineers, for engineering services for the capacity evaluation of the East Main St. sewers. The cost for this evaluation is estimated to not exceed \$10,500. Harold Kilhefner made a motion to pay the cost for the evaluation up to \$10,500, seconded by Scot Ash. Motion carried unanimously.

Blue Ball Water System: The bids for the project to connect Twin Springs were opened April 5, 2023. One bid was received for general construction and one bid for electrical. The total for both was \$1,290,540 which far exceeds the construction cost opinion of \$739,739. Due to the high bid prices and since only one bid was received for each contract, Becker recommended that the Authority reject all bids and authorize rebidding the project after modifying the contract scopes. Gene Pierce made a motion to reject all bids and authorize rebidding the project after modifying the contract scopes, seconded by Scot Ash. Motion carried unanimously.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Frank presented a report via email. He noted in his report that he prepared an easement encroachment notification letter to be served to property owners by certified mail.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Bruce reported that he received four quotes ranging from \$484.96 to \$672.00 per mowing for the 2023 season. The lowest was from Mr. Grounds Keeper. He does other mowing in Terre Hill and he is insured. Scot would like Bruce to verify that the cost is per mowing, not the annual cost as noted on the proposal. Scot made a motion to contract with Mr. Grounds Keeper for the 2023 mowing season at a rate of \$484.96 per mowing

contingent on verification of the proper insurance and verification of the per mowing rate, seconded by Harold Kilhefner. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Public Notification Proposal: Denise explained that she recently received notification that Swift911 is being disabled. The Authority can either find a new public notification supplier or upgrade to Rave Alert. The cost for Rave Alert (\$1,250.00 yearly) is significantly more than Swift911 (\$200.00 yearly plus the cost per notification campaign). Although Swift911 was only used for one campaign in the past, we need this service available in the event it would be necessary to notify the service area of an issue. Gene Pierce made a motion to upgrade to Rave Alert, seconded by Jason Firestine. Motion carried unanimously.

Having no further business, Jason Firestine moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:01, seconded by Harold Kilhefner. The next meeting will be held on May 8, 2023 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
Terry Zook
East Earl Township
Terre Hill Borough
Robert Rissler
Dan Becker, Becker Engineering
Frank Mincarelli, Blakinger Thomas
Terry Kauffman