

# Weaverland Valley Authority

## Meeting Minutes

June 6, 2016

The board of the Weaverland Valley Authority (“Authority”) met at the East Earl Township building 4610 Division Hwy, East Earl, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania on June 6, 2016. Chairman Ken Witmer called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and informed all present that the meeting was being recorded by a resident.

The following Board members were present: Ken Witmer, Jerrene Zimmerman, Harold Kilhefner, Randy Miller, Gene Pierce, Scott Marburger, Scot Ash & Robert Jackson. Also present was Bradford J. Harris, Good & Harris LLP, Jeff Sweater, ELA, Robert Rissler, Terre Hill Borough, Gary Martin, Blue Ball Water Authority and East Earl Sewer Authority & Denise Bensing, Administrative Assistant.

Minutes: A motion was made by Jerrene Zimmerman and seconded by Gene Pierce, that the minutes of the April 25, 2016 meeting be approved as submitted. The motion carried unanimously.

Elect Additional Officers: Robert Jackson declined his nomination for secretary which was made at the last meeting. Gene Pierce nominated Jerrene Zimmerman for secretary, seconded by Scot Ash. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineer’s Report: Jeff reminded the board that the Consent Order is still in place. The next deadline with the state is January 1, 2017. On this date, the NPDES permit will need to be submitted to DEP. Designing the plant and completing the NPDES permit will take time which is why ELA is recommending beginning preparation of the permit by July 1, 2016. Jeff also recommends a meeting be set up with Terre Hill Borough, East Earl Township and the Authority. Jeff stressed the importance of keeping the project moving forward and reminded the board that penalties could be imposed if the deadlines aren’t met. Ken asked if the appeal, which is the reason the assets have not been transferred, would push some of the dates off. Jeff explained that he spoke with DEP and they feel the appeal should not delay the project moving forward.

Dave Horst informed the board that at the Township Supervisors meeting in May, the supervisors allotted some money to help pay the bills of the Authority. Mr. Horst asked when the Authority will be ready to pay its own bills. It was noted that this needs to be determined. The hope is to have the assets be transferred by the end of the year but the reality is that the Authority will need to spend money before the assets are transferred.

Solicitor’s Report: Brad reported that the 2016 meeting dates were advertised in LNP on May 19, 2016. He also reported that the certifications to DOS and DEP have not been sent yet. The reason for the delay is because the secretary position still needed to be filled.

New Business: Gary Laird, Owen Esterly, and Bob Watts with Chester County Solid Waste Authority were present to discuss the possibility of treating the leachate from the landfill at the new treatment plant. Bob Watts presented a diagram and analytical data to the board. He then explained that they currently discharge some of their waste to the Conestoga River and some they truck to large treatment plants. They estimate to have 15 years of capacity at the landfill and will continue to operate post-closure for 30 years. They explained to the board that they are required to set aside funds to cover post-closure costs. It was explained that currently they use ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis and have the ability to store leachate if necessary. The board asked if this waste would be compatible with the current design of the plant. Julian said it’s not impossible but the data would need to be studied more in depth. Jeff and Julian explained that it may require a redesign of the plant. The proposed new plant is being planned to handle 200,000 gallons per day with a primary focus on treating domestic waste. The plant is planned to be designed in such a way that it can be expanded if necessary. It was

also noted that if accepting this waste proves to be beneficial an amendment can be done to change the 537 plan. Scott Marburger said he spoke with Gary Martin, the engineer for East Earl Sewer Authority, and Gary said with the possible volume from the waste authority he would think significant upgrades would need to be made for the proposed regional plant. His biggest concern would be the quality of the waste that needs to be treated, specifically total dissolved solids but he feels it is worth investigating.

Jerrene Zimmerman asked if the waste authority would pay to put in the sewer line and for the necessary easements. Mr. Laird said that is still to be determined but they would be willing to discuss it. The waste authority and the board both feel it is worth researching further to see if the connection is mutually beneficial to both parties and the Chester County Solid Waste Authority agreed to fund a data study. A motion was made by Gene Pierce to set up a \$2,500.00 escrow account with Chester County Solid Waste Authority to fund a data review study, seconded by Randy Miller. Motion carried unanimously.

Bob Rissler, Terre Hill Borough – Bob Rissler was present to discuss the current status of the Terre Hill water and sewer facilities.

- Sewer – 612 Customers (most in Terre Hill but some are in East Earl Township)
- 5 miles of line – almost all gravity; mostly vitrified clay; some terra cotta; new developments all PVC
- 210,000 GPD wastewater treatment plant built in 1963
- 140,000 operating GPD
- 4 pump stations – all relatively new
- Tapping Fee \$6,000

Bob noted that the treatment plant has survived well past its life expectancy and if it was to continue to be used it would need to be rebuilt. Also noted, there are some I & I issues which Bob feels is mostly caused by missing vent caps. Bob explained that Terre Hill Borough has a Replacement and Renewal Program in which they take the life expectancy of an asset and cost and put money back each year to replace the asset. Currently the only projects pending are incomplete developments. All rates are based on metered consumption. If a customer is not on public water, the property owner is required to install a meter on their private well. The approximate cost of a meter is \$110.00. It was noted that the treatment plant site is on the same property as the Borough recycling center. This site could possibly be leased from the Borough.

- Water – 3 operating wells (20gpm, 75gpm, and 125 gpm)
- Cast iron piping
- 2 concrete storage tanks (140,000 and 200,000)
- Tapping Fee \$4,000 approximately

Bob reported that the water system was constructed in 1930 as a public works project. There have been some upgrades done to the 6” & 8” lines. Some property was given to the Borough by the property owner. A new well was recently drilled on this property and an aquifer test was completed. The aquifer test revealed iron and manganese present. This will require that the water be treated if the well is brought online. The well has not been permitted by SRBC at this time. Gene Pierce gave an estimate of \$100,000-\$120,000 to commission the new well and bring it online. It was noted that there is not a current need for more water. The new well was dug for future planning. There are 2 antennas mounted on one storage tank. One is a 911 antenna and the other is a Hydrosoft communications antenna. Hydrosoft provides computers and internet access to the Borough in exchange for having the antenna on the tank. It was also noted that one well sits on the same property as the Borough garage. This site could possibly be leased from the Borough.

Gary Martin, Blue Ball Water Authority and East Earl Sewer Authority engineer – Gary was present to discuss the status of the Blue Ball Water Authority and East Earl Sewer Authority facilities.

Water – Built in 1908 Purchased from Blue Ball Water Works in 1969  
511 Customers/590 EDU's (Some in Earl Township)  
Tapping Fee \$11,505 (mainly high due to limited capacity)  
Approx. 8.5 miles of water main  
3 wells (35gpd, 85gpd & 120gpd) – recently grandfathered by SRBC for 122,000gpd  
300,000 gallon storage tank built in 2006  
50 fire hydrants as part of the system (not for fire flow or pressure)  
2016 operating budget \$280,000

Blue Ball Water Authority will take over a well drilled by Twin Springs on Ranck's Church Rd. on July 28, 2016. The well is currently being pumped at a rate of 55gpm but the well driller projected the well to be suitable for permitting up to 150 gpm. The permitting process is underway with SRBC. Until the permitting for this well is complete and the well is connected to the system, there are only 21 EDU's available. Rates are based on consumption.

Sewer – Established in 1985  
960 Customers/1408 EDU's  
Tapping Fee \$6,310  
Approx. 20.75 miles of line  
7 pump stations  
Approx. 485 grinder pumps owned by Authority  
Current capacity agreement - New Holland Borough – 100,000 GPD (Daily flow 44,000 gpd)  
Current capacity agreement with Earl Township – 250,000 GPD (Daily flow 133,000 gpd)  
2016 operating budget \$1,040,000

Gary noted there is a valve at Ewell Rd. which can switch some of the flows from Earl Twp. to New Holland Borough. Gary also discussed the cost sharing with Earl Township for the upgrades to comply with the Chesapeake Bay requirements. East Earl Sewer Authority will be responsible for 38.46% of the proposed \$13,661,100 project.

Financing of the Weaverland Valley Authority – A letter was sent to Frank Mincarelli (Blue Ball Water and East Earl Sewer Authorities solicitor) from Gary Krafft (East Earl Township solicitor) regarding the funding of the Weaverland Valley Authority. The Township has proposed that the Blue Ball Water Authority and East Earl Sewer Authority infuse cash for the Weaverland Valley Authority to use to operate until all the assets and liabilities are transferred. Jeff Sweater voiced his concern about the deadlines being met if they don't continue to move forward with the planning. Some of the board noted that they were under the impression that the costs were the responsibility of the Township and Borough. Brad explained that the Township and the Borough are responsible for the 537 Plan which included the appeal costs and the costs to create and organize the new authority. The costs for developing the authority would be the responsibility of the authority.

Dave Horst informed the board that at the last East Earl Township Supervisor's meeting, the Supervisors agreed to pay \$10,000 more in expenses for the Weaverland Valley Authority but are under the impression that this money will be reimbursed.

After more discussion, it was agreed that a meeting needs to be set up with East Earl Township, Terre Hill Borough, Blue Ball Water Authority, East Earl Sewer Authority, and Weaverland Valley Authority. Jeff Sweater was asked to set up this meeting.

Appointment of Engineer and Solicitor – Jerrene noted her concern that there could be a conflict of interest if Brad Harris is appointed because he also serves as the solicitor for Terre Hill Borough. Jerrene also explained that since Brad has already been involved in the legal matters of the newly formed authority it makes sense to continue with his services, at least on a temporary basis. Gene Pierce made a motion to appoint Brad Harris as the temporary solicitor until the assets and liabilities are transferred, seconded by Jerrene Zimmerman. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerrene, Ken, Scott and Scot, expressed their concern with losing Gary Martin’s knowledge in the current system and feel it would be important to retain his services for the operations. Jerrene also noted that Jeff and Julian have been working on the 537 Plan and the building of the new treatment plant. Jerrene proposed appointing Jeff Sweater for design and building the new treatment plant and appointing Gary Martin for operations. Bob Rissler disagreed and said he feels there should only be one engineer. Gene Pierce said there could be a primary engineer and another engineer could be used for special needs. Gene would propose Jeff Sweater as the primary engineer since he had the vision of the 537 Plan and joint treatment plant. Gene Pierce made a motion to appoint Jeff Sweater and Julian Mazer of ELA as the engineering representative for the 537 Plan and design of the joint treatment plant, seconded by Jerrene Zimmerman. Motion carried unanimously.

Jerrene suggested forming a committee to research solicitors in regards to rates and services.

Ken feels a financial advisor should be consulted after the assets are transferred. Jeff will gather a list for the board.

Bob Jackson noted that regarding conflict of interest, he wanted to inform the board that his wife works at the Terre Hill Borough office. He doesn’t want any perception that there is a conflict of interest. The board just noted that he would need to abstain from any voting that would be related to his wife’s position.

Scot Ash moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Harold Kilhefner. The next meeting will be held on July 7, 2016, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise A. Bensing

Cc: Scot Ash  
Robert Jackson  
Harold Kilhefner  
Scott Marburger  
Randy Miller  
L. Eugene Pierce  
Kenneth Witmer  
Jerrene Zimmerman  
Bradford J. Harris, Attorney  
East Earl Township  
Terre Hill Borough  
Robert Rissler  
Jeff Sweater, Consulting Engineer  
Gary Martin, Becker Engineering  
Frank Mincarelli, Blakinger Thomas