

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

March 4, 2009

The meeting of the Bethel Township Municipal Authority was called to order by Chairman, David Younker at 7:05 p.m. on March 4, 2009 at the Bethel Township Community Center, Bethel PA.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Chairman Younker called the roll:

Rufus Geesaman – present

Harold Gruber – present

Kevin Stupp –present

David Younker – present

Carl Weaver – present

Also present were Solicitor Parish, Andrew Gaul of Vision Engineering and Darlene Orendo, Secretary.

Public Comment on Agenda

None

Approval of Minutes

Harold Gruber made a motion to approve the minutes of February 4, 2009. Second by Kevin Stupp. All agreed. Motion carried.

Member Report

Rufus Geesaman reported the following: He delivered all data required to the auditors. The credit cards were received and were distributed to the approved members. We currently have a \$500 limit. A training workshop by PMAA will be held in Hershey in April.

Solicitor Report

Solicitor Parish reported that he is working with the School District Solicitor on an agreement for the school to tie into the sewer system. Their solicitor has discussed it with the Superintendent and he was in agreement. It needs to go the School Board for approval.

He has also been working with the attorney representing Wesley Weiant. Solicitor Parish is endeavoring to find out his claim. They are requesting a joint meeting with Vision Engineering on the site to discuss some of the conflicts. Solicitor Parish will continue to negotiate with his attorney.

Engineer's Report

This office has been working on the following items this past month and would like to update the Board as follows: (items denoted with “*” have accompanying information in the Board’s packet. Items denoted with “**” have been forwarded to board members prior correspondence this month).

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR BOARD REVIEW AND/OR ACTION (POTENTIAL VISITORS):

1. *BTMA-08103 Berks County Industrial Development Authority: This office received a revised plan submission although has not completed a formal review of this plan due to other ongoing commitments this month.
2. *BTMA-08111 Bethel Elementary School Plan (Village of Bethel): This office has continued to work with the various plan submissions this month and has offered our review comments (separate letter) to the Board for their consideration. The applicant is looking for an approval by the Board this evening.

FINANCING MATTERS (PENNVEST & PENNWORKS):

3. *This office is recommending payment of invoices (separate correspondence to the Board) for the construction project for the following listed contracts (through to 02/20/09) which would require Board action for payment. The payment details are attached (separate correspondence) and summarized as follows:
 - a. Contract # 2 Bethel collection lines (100% complete to date).
 - b. Contract # 3 Bethel Pump Stations (73 % complete).
 - c. Contract # 4 Bethel Wastewater Treatment Plant (72% complete).
 - d. Contract # 5 Frystown Wastewater Treatment Plant (49% complete).
 - e. Contract # 7 Plumbing Systems for WWTP and appurtenances (16% complete).
 - f. Contract # 8 Electrical Systems for WWTP and appurtenances (30% complete).

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AND LOGISTICS:

4. *We continue providing the Board with our inspection reports (email) and have provided hard copies for Board Members of this past month’s activities. In summary the work has been progressing as follows:
 - a. **Contract # 1** – Frystown Collection Lines. No work was completed this past month (waiting for favorable paving weather to complete).
 - b. **Contract # 2** – Bethel Collection Lines. The work completed this past month included primarily some force main work. The testing of the force mains revealed some corrective measures that Marks Contracting is still working on.
 - c. **Contracts # 3 – # 8** The work on the various contracts continues in varying degrees. We have now implemented regular (bi-weekly) progress

meetings for ALL contractors, engineers, etc. in order to facilitate coordination of all parties.

- i. We have focused our efforts in developing various options in addressing the groundwater conditions in Frystown. At this point we have developed the following options for the Board to consider and should have supplemental information for further discussion:
 1. Removal of the groundwater with a series of wells installed in and around the site.
 2. Implementing a revised structural design to allow the groundwater in place and to keep the groundwater out of the building (heavier & waterproof type structure).
 3. Completely revise the type of pump (from suction lift to a submersible type) in order to remove the basement structure to house the current suction lift pumps.
- ii. There have been a few change orders proposed as result of reviewing various submittals etc. and are discussed below.

PLAN REVISIONS AND/OR CHANGE ORDERS:

5. **Contract # 3 (Old 22 Pump Station):** As a result of further review of field conditions, this office revised the layout and grading of the site to enable better runoff patterns and functionality and will verbally present these revision for the Board members.

DEVELOPMENT PLANS FOR BOARD INFORMATION/UPDATE:

6. Fox Property (Frystown area) adjacent to Werner Trucking and I-78: This office received a phone call from the consultant for this tract notifying us of their zoning approvals for the site and their intentions of moving ahead with the development plans.

OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING BOARD REVIEW AND/OR ACTION:

7. **Supplemental project funding:** We would recommend the Board looking into possible supplemental project funding (grants) with the pending stimulus packages. We would see several opportunities for these funds (increasing the grant funds to reduce the overall cost to the users and possibly for any implementation stages of the Frystown infrastructure (related to the current 537 plan revisions). Preliminary discussions should include Frank Leber and PENNVEST in order to fully understand any impacts or restrictions that the current funding sources would have.
8. **ACT 537 Plan Revisions:** This office continues work with Attorney Parish and the Township Engineer in developing a portion of these revisions to protect the Authority's interests.

PUBLIC RELATIONS/ MISC. INFORMATION:

9. We continue updating items on our website and certainly welcome any further suggestions on how this may be used for disseminating the project information.
10. This office has been formalizing the standard details for the Authority and has some draft copies for the Board's review. We expect to have these completed the next month or two.
11. The surveyor has been surveying the as-built sewer facilities and this office will be compiling this information for the development of as-built (record) plans.
12. We will continue working with Terry Parish on the various ordinances as necessary.
13. We will continue working with Terry Parish on the ACT 537 plan revisions as being driven by the developers (Frystown village).

The following notes were taken during the Engineer's report from discussion with the Board and Vision Engineering: Andrew presented the report in the absence of John Roche at tonight's meeting.

Development Plans for Board Review:

1. **BCIDA Review** – to be completed later in the month.
2. **Bethel School Review** – a letter issued by Vision to the Authority was given to members for consideration and review at tonight's meeting.

A motion was made by Rufus Geesaman to sign and approve the Bethel Elementary School Agreement. Carl Weaver seconded the motion. All agreed. Motion carried. A signature line on the plan for the Authority was discussed. It is to be removed from the plan, only the Board of Supervisor's will sign the plan.

A motion was also made Rufus Geesaman to accept Vision Engineering letter that the plan represents final review subject to the determined number of EDU's. Second by Kevin Stupp. All agreed. Motion carried.

Construction Management and Logistics:

c. Contracts #3- #8: i – various options for consideration by the Board to address the groundwater problems in Frystown. David Younker expressed the urgency to secure bids for options 2 & 3 in the report and hold a special meeting to discuss and make a decision. Andrew was instructed to keep members apprised of updates by email.

A sketch plan of the Bethel Treatment Plant with some additional site lighting was included in the member's packet to review. Vision will get a cost from J B Electric for the change. The Board will approve if there is no additional cost. A motion was not made at this time.

For the Board's reference, a picture was included in the engineering packet of a change requested by J B Electric to proceed. A motion was made by Rufus Geesaman to approve to move two junction boxes on the north side up to the rails (above grade). Motion seconded by Harold Gruber. All agreed. Motion carried.

Plan Revisions / Change Orders:

5. Contract #3 – Rufus Geesaman contacted Carl Giorgio who is an adjacent land owner to the pump station by email for a grading easement. Mr. Giorgio was in Florida at the time. He was agreeable as long as there is no impact to his property. A proper elevation for mowing was recommended.

Kevin Stupp advised the paving rings around the man holes on Seymour Drive are completely gone and have caused problems for the snow plows. Andrew will contact the contractor regarding the problem.

Rufus Geesaman reported he had a call from Brian Herber, Berks County Conservation regarding an anonymous call he received regarding some ground that was dumped at the Meadows Mobile Home Park on Schubert Road by Marks Construction. Del Locke, owner of the park also spoke to Rufus. He did not have an E&S plan for the ground and was advised an approved plan must be in place. The Authority is being held responsible due to the fact that this ground came from our construction site. Vision Engineering was instructed to meet with Mr. Locke to get a plan in place. Mr. Locke will be responsible to pay the costs. Vision will bill us and we will bill Mr. Locke.

David Younker recommended that Vision decrease the amount of paper by omitting the daily reports from the meeting packets. He requested they supply the Authority with only 1 copy for our file.

Unfinished Business-

Truck Specs- Specs were given to members and after discussion Carl Weaver made a motion to purchase the GMC truck. Second by Harold Gruber. All agreed. Motion carried. The truck will be purchased through the Co Star Program.

The Loan extension will be discussed at next month's meeting.

A motion was made by David Younker to approve membership to the Berks Co. Public Works for 1 year at a cost of \$75.00. Second by Carl Weaver. All agreed. Motion carried.

New Business

Rufus Geesaman reported that the Authority received a letter from Carl & Cheryl Giorgio, 9531 Old Route 22, Bethel. The Giorgio's requested the Board waive the \$3,000.00 tap in fee due to hardship their property and business has suffered during the construction period. The Board could not waive the tap in fee but discussed the option of providing some additional paving to restore some of the odd cuts in his macadam and curbing.

Rufus Geesaman made a motion to have the Chairman sign acknowledgement of reading PMAA unemployment compensation rules and regulations. Motion seconded by Kevin Stupp. All agreed. Motion carried.

Discussion then took place concerning sealing the wet wells and man holes with a material from Able Recon that would help to curb corrosion. David Younker requested

Vision Engineering get some costs and another bid from another manufacturer. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Authorization of Payment of Bills

Rufus advised members that all of the contractor's are paid to date. He also mentioned to members that the Engineer's bill had not been submitted but had requested it be paid once it is. Rufus made a motion to approve payment of all the bills including the Engineer's bill. Second by Carl Weaver. All agreed. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Randall Haag mentioned that he felt the Act 537 plan has been drug out too long and requested it get resolved ASAP. He also reported that the official demolition of the buildings on the BCIDA property had been started. He also had a question for members regarding an estimation of the number of employees occupying the Authority space at the Township office. He also advised members that records storage remains a big issue and will occupy a lot of the space to be designed.

Sharing equipment with Tulpehocken Township and Strausstown could be a possibility. Vision Engineering was requested to contact Tulpehocken and also get a list of equipment together. This will be discussed further at next month's meeting.

Secretary, Darlene Orendo advised members that the storm door at the office was removed. Rufus Geesaman advised members he contacted Curt Moyer about replacing the door.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9: 37 p.m. was made by Harold Gruber. Second by Kevin Stupp.

Respectfully Submitted,

Darlene M. Orendo
Secretary