

March 20, 2024  
7:00 PM

The regular meeting of Monroe Township Municipal Authority was called to order by Chairman Miller. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

#### ATTENDANCE

Kevin Miller, Chairman

Greg Rogalski, Engineer

Michael Pykosh, Solicitor

Bill Beck, Treasurer

Derek Mongelli, Asst. Sec./Treas.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jenna Griffiths, 1149 Boiling Springs Road, noticed the 2024 budget included a \$300,000 grant and wanted to know if we applied for a grant again this year. Mr. Miller said we haven't yet, but it's on the to do list. Mr. Mongelli added that grants are typically for a specific use or project type and we need to determine what the need is and if our need will fit the grant type to be able to apply and receive a grant.

Nicole Snyder, 1323 Swope Drive, asked if grants are being sought out for the Phase 4 project and who checks for grant availability. Mr. Rogalski explained the grants go in cycles, so we have to wait until the grant cycle opens to apply. We also need to have a scope of work prepared to use for the application. He added that we are notified by PSATS and other professional platforms of grant opportunities. Ms. Snyder said at the last meeting she provided information for GMS, a grant writing company, who is on a \$25,000 retainer for South Middleton Township. She also feels the \$25,000 budgeted for Community Day could better be used toward getting for projects. Mr. Miller said that is a decision made by the Supervisors. Mr. Pykosh added that there have been discussions with a grant writing company and may be forth coming.

Ms. Griffith understands there is going to be a rate hike in the Monroe Acres area and asked if that is governed by the PUC. Mr. Pykosh said that township authorities are not governed by the PUC.

#### MINUTES

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 regular meeting.**

#### OPERATIONS REPORT

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Operations Report.**

#### CAPACITY REPORT

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Capacity Report.**

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. Beck stated that the 2023 billing reconciliation was received from Mechanicsburg. He created a spreadsheet to show the Treatment Cost History for the Northern District. In 2019 the cost per thousand gallon was \$2.43 and in 2023 the cost per thousand gallon is \$4.17.

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Miller, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Financial Report.**

#### LIEN/DEBT REPORT

Mr. Miller stated that some new accounts have been added to the lien list and the total is \$31,555. Mr. Mongelli added that about 50% of that amount is from only 3 accounts.

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to approve the Lien/Debt Report.**

#### SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Pykosh said he filed 6 new liens last month. Account 48-0 has been sent payment plan paperwork and account 58-1 is already in a payment plan. He reaches out to each account to try to set up payment plans. The next step, if a payment plan is not entered into, is to file paperwork with the District Justice.

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Solicitor's Report.**

#### ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Rogalski reviewed the report dated March 12, 2024. He added that the work has started on the generator replacement in the Northern District and the new generator will be set on April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Mr. Beck asked mentioned that the flows were up in White Rock and down in Churchtown, he's not sure if we are making headway with the I&I work. Mr. Rogalski we are continuing with the projects and in theory the I&I should be down, but he feels the laterals may be some of the issue. Mr. Miller stated that the laterals are the homeowner's responsibility. Mr. Rogalski added that it was an extraordinary rain event with flooding, which is why the February flows were higher. He added that the meter for White Rock was out around the time of the rain event, so the flows may not be accurate.

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to accept the Engineer's Report.**

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### ALLENBERRY RESORT – DEVELOPER'S AGREEMENT FOR SEWER/WATER

Mr. Pykosh said there is nothing to report at this time.

**On the motion of Mr. Miller, and seconded by Mr. Mongelli, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to table this matter until the July or August meeting.**

#### NEW BUSINESS

##### LEIDIGH SPARE PUMP QUOTE

Mr. Rogalski said that there have been some pump failures and replacements at the Leidigh pump station, which requires us to rent a portable pump to operate correctly. The spare pump would save on rental costs and allow us to rotate the pumps in and out for maintenance.

**On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Mongelli, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to recommend purchasing a spare pump for the Leidigh pump station at a cost of \$22,570.**

#### MECHANICSBURG SPARE PUMP QUOTE

Mr. Rogalski said these pumps have been warhorses, as they are going on 20 years old. The pumps are starting to age and he feels it would be reasonable to have a spare pump so that we don't have to rent a pump.

**On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Miller, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to recommend purchasing a spare pump for the Mechanicsburg pump station at a cost of \$7,443.80.**

#### NORTHERN SEWER LINE FLUSHING PROPOSAL

Mr. Rogalski provided a map of the area to be flushed. The area in yellow was completed in 2023. The area in orange is proposed to be done in 2024 and the cost would be \$4,500. And if you include the green area with the red circles the cost would be \$6,500.

**On the motion of Mr. Beck, and seconded by Mr. Mongelli, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to proceed with flushing the sewer lines at a cost of \$6,500.**

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jenna Griffiths, 1149 Boiling Springs Road, asked residents with liens/payment plans are charged interest. Mr. Pykosh said they are charged 10% interest. He added that when he started the lien debt was \$190,000, which they have worked on and it was down to \$22,000. We do place municipal liens on the property and he tries to work with residents to set up payments plans instead of taking further legal action. He also contacts mortgage companies for payment.

Nicole Snyder, 1323 Swope Drive, mentioned that she just purchased a house that was in foreclosure and asked why PNC didn't pay the liens off. Mr. Pykosh said everything has been paid and all banks operate differently, but he believes the property was in and out of foreclosure.

Ms. Snyder referred to the comments about laterals leaking and said she included laterals in her insurance. She wondered if she should have her lateral checked. Mr. Rogalski said its not a bad idea, but said some insurances have a cap amount.

Tim Thompson, 1209 Indian Peg Road, said he has read the minutes backs to 2008 and gave Mr. Pykosh kudos for lowering the lien debt. He then asked if the Northern District debt is paid off. Mr. Miller said yes. Mr. Thompson asked what portion of the quarterly fee goes for upgrade in the future. He asked if the Northern District is still accruing money in their account and if rate relief has been considered. Mr. Beck said he is comfortable with the amount in reserves at this time. He added that they could look at lowering rates at the end of the year during budget planning. Mr. Rogalski added that rates can be changed at any time, but the township typically reviews that with the budget process.

Jenna Griffiths stated that Monroe has a representative on the DAA board, and asked why we don't have

one on the SMTMA. Mr. Pykosh stated that the DAA is a regional authority and SMTMA is not regional. Ms. Griffiths added that SMTMA's rate is \$180 per quarter for water and sewer. Mr. Rogalski agreed SMTMA's rate is lower and said it is a math problem, it's based on the number of people and distances between homes. He added that we have brought up having a seat on the Board. Mr. Rogalski added that we have had a very acrimonious relationship with SMTMA and currently it is as good as it has ever been. Mr. Miller added that we do have an intermunicipal agreement with SMTMA for the treatment of water and wastewater that is from 1978.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

Mr. Miller said that Jeff Clay resigned last month and there is 1 person on the list that had shown interest in serving. He asked Ms. Lowery to reach out to see if they are still interested. He added that if the Board knows anyone in the Northern District who may be interested in serving to share their information.

#### ADJOURN

**On the motion of Mr. Mongelli, and seconded by Mr. Beck, and by unanimous vote of the members, it was duly RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 PM.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Karen M. Lowery  
Recording Secretary