

# LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY

## MINUTES Wednesday, December 6, 2023

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The regular monthly meeting of the Lehighon Water Authority was held on the above date in the Municipal Building. Chairman; David Harleman called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

### **Attendance:**

David Harleman; Chairman, Lamont Ebbert; Vice-Chairman, Gordon Ripkey; Treasurer, Larry Markley; Asst. Treasurer; Tucker Haberman; Superintendent, Jeffrey Ebbert; Asst. Superintendent, Nicole Nothstein; Administrative Secretary and Jenny Cheng; Solicitor

Russell Schoenberger; Secretary--absent

### **Minutes:**

The minutes of the last regular monthly meeting of Wednesday, November 8, 2023, were approved on a motion by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Larry Markley and passed.

### **Visitors:**

Eric Snyder and Ralph Clay; Keystone Consulting Engineers, Inc. (KCE) were present to discuss the survey proposal of the Pine Run Area (+/-1,200 acres) for a potential easement agreement with the Wildlands Conservancy, cost not to exceed \$215,000. Dawn Gorham; Wildlands Conservancy was present for any questions about the potential easement/survey needed for the project. After a discussion of when the survey needed to be completed and what the possible per/acre price the authority could receive for this property it was decided that an appraisal is needed before the authority moves forward with the survey work in the proposal from KCE. The proposal was tabled on a motion made by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Lamont Ebbert and passed.

A motion was made by Lamont Ebbert, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to authorize Dawn Gorham to apply for a transactional grant for the appraisal of this property so the authority has a price per acre and can decide if it's feasible to move forward with the potential easement/survey work.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Nothing to report.

### **Secretary's Report:**

Absent.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

1. A motion was made by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Lamont Ebbert and passed to roll over the Edward Jones \$30,000 CD that matures on 12/13/23 into another 3-month CD with the best rate, cash out the interest and deposit into bank account.
2. The Selter Group Insurance proposal for \$36,186-Commercial (will be requesting that the Crime-Selective Insurance for \$150 be cancelled because it is duplicate

coverage-cost will then be \$36,036-Commercial) and \$15,314-Worker's Compensation was approved on a motion made by Larry Markley, seconded by Lamont Ebbert and passed.

**Superintendent's Report:**

1. David Seeley; PP&L emailed a request for approval of temporary workspace agreements on parcel 54-13-A24 and 68-51-A4, the authority will be compensated \$500.00 per agreement. The temporary agreements were approved, and Tucker Haberman has authorization to sign on the authority's behalf per a motion made by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Gordon Ripkey and passed.
2. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to approve the proposal from PenTeleData for a laptop computer at a cost of \$2,010.
3. The #3 filter evaluation report has been completed by Matthew Seeker; Water Service Professionals to meet the PA DEP state requirements for filter evaluation under Section 109.70(b)(5) of Pennsylvania Safe Drinking Water Act. Recommendations in the report is for the authority to consider a full media replacement in the near future and to evaluate backwash controls to minimize delays between backwash steps.

**Old Business:**

1. Lehigh River Crossing—Rachel Govelovich; Gannett Fleming, Inc. submitted the LSA grant application on November 29, 2023. Representative Doyle Heffley and Senator David Argall submitted support letters for the project. Susan Wild's office supports federal funding, her office is looking into the possibility of applying for federal grant funds.
2. Solar Energy—nothing reported.
3. Lead replacement project—nothing reported,
4. Carbon Plaza Mall—nothing reported.

**Approval of all Reports, Account Payables and Additional Account Payables:**

On a motion by Gordon Ripkey seconded by Larry Markley to accept all reports and pay all bills.

**Executive Session:**

On a motion by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to go into executive session at 7:37 p.m. for personnel matters.

**Regular Session:**

On a motion by Lamont Ebbert, seconded by Gordon Ripkey and passed to go back into regular session at 7:50 p.m.

**Action Taken on Executive Session Items:**

1. Salaried employees' wages were discussed and approved to be updated in the 2024 budget on a motion made by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed.
2. The budget with the salary updates and commercial/worker's compensation updates was approved on a motion made by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Larry Markley the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Nicole Nothstein  
Administrative Secretary