

LEHIGHTON WATER AUTHORITY

MINUTES Wednesday, April 3, 2024

The regular monthly meeting of the Lehigh 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, Russell Schoenberger; Secretary, Gordon Ripkey; Treasurer, Larry Markley; Asst. Treasurer, Tucker Haberman; Superintendent, Jeffrey Ebbert; Asst. Superintendent, Nicole Nothstein; Administrative Secretary and Jenny Cheng; Solicitor

Minutes:

The minutes of the last regular monthly meeting of Wednesday, March 6, 2024, were approved on a motion by Gordon Ripkey seconded by Larry Markley and passed.

Visitor's:

1. Dawn Gorham; Wildland's Conservancy was present to get approval of a conservation easement agreement of sale \$1,050,000 (authority's net would be \$1,000,000 – the \$50,000 is for the stewardship endowment). If grant funds do not come through, the Conservancy would come back to the authority to renegotiate, the Authority is not locked in if they cannot bring the \$1,050,000 to the table.

David Harleman questioned if there is anything in the conservation easement that would prohibit us from logging. Per Dawn, logging would have to be done in a sustainable manner. A forest stewardship plan and a forest management plan would be needed for review and approved and then when you'd go to cut that plan would have to be reviewed as well. Would not be allowed to just cut trees just because the authority needs money, needs to be done to make the forest healthier or help with the quality of water.

A motion was made by Gordon Ripkey, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to enter into an Agreement of Sale and authorizing David Harleman; Chairman to sign all paperwork required once reviewed and approved by Jenny Cheng; Solicitor.

2. Ed Smith; Gannett Fleming was in attendance to discuss an issue with an overflow project being completed by the Lehigh Canal Recreation Commission "LCRC" along the canal in Weissport. The concrete structures for the overflows proposed to be directly over the water main increases the probability of issues for that main in the area. Once the structure is there, if something happens to the water main, there will be no access to the main unless the structure is removed. The smaller overflow (site 1) there would only be 1.6 ½ foot clearance and the larger overflow (site 2) 10 ¾ inches one side of it and 9 ½ inch clearance on other side to our water main.

Doug Mikotka a volunteer with LCRC arrived during the discussion and asked the board what needs to be done to get the canal path reopened. The board said that what has been

done to this point has not affected the authority so the canal commission can do whatever is needed to get the park open.

Larry Markley made a motion, seconded by Gordon Ripkey and passed authorizing Ed Smith to respond back to LCRC's engineer/contractor what our requirements would be for relocating and protecting our water main.

Solicitor's Report:

Nothing to report.

Secretary's Report:

1. Felicia Campbell sent an email about a session on PennVest funding opportunities, no one was interested in attending.
2. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Russell Schoenberger and passed to deny Tri-Valley Water Hauling's request to purchase bulk water.
3. The 2023 audit reports completed by Buckno Lisicky & Co. were approved on a motion made by Lamont Ebbert, seconded by Larry Markley and passed.
4. DEP sent a letter informing us that they received the NPDES permit.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Lamont Ebbert, and passed to roll over the Edward Jones 3-months CD that matures on 4/26/24 for the best rate.

Superintendent's Report:

1. Gordon Ripkey made a motion, seconded by Larry Markley and passed to install a meter pit for 3446 Long Run Road at the LWA property line.
2. Approval given for David Harleman to sign the annual generator preventative maintenance agreement with Winter Engine-Generator Service, Inc.-cost \$1,170.00 on a motion made by Russell Schoenberger, seconded by Larry Markley and passed.
3. Lamont Ebbert made a motion, seconded by Russell Schoenberger and passed to authorize Tyler Helmer to upgrade his CDL from a Class B to a Class A at a cost of \$2,400.00.

Old Business:

1. Stetson Tchividjian; D3 Energy does not think the floating solar makes sense for the authority.

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

On a motion by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Russell Schoenberger to accept all reports and pay all bills.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Lamont Ebbert seconded by Russell Schoenberger the meeting adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

Russell Schoenberger
Secretary