

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP
AUTHORITY MEETING**

Minutes of Township Authority Meeting held December 16, 2014

A special meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Authority was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman William C. Seeds, Sr., on the above date in the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Authority members present in addition to Mr. Seeds were: William B. Hawk, William L. Hornung, Gary A. Crissman, and Robin Lindsey. Also in attendance were George Wolfe, Township Manager; Steve Stine, Authority Solicitor; and Watson Fisher, SWAN.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Crissman led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve the November 10, 2014 Authority meeting minutes. Mr. Hawk seconded the motion. Mr. Seeds called for a voice vote and a unanimous vote followed.

Public Comment

No comments was provided.

Board Members' Comment

No comments were provided.

New Business

Resolution 14-15; establishing a Sewer Rental Billing and Collection Policy

Mr. Wolfe noted during the Authority Board meeting held on November 10, 2014, and the Lower Paxton Township Board Workshop meeting held December 9th, the Board of Supervisors and Authority reviewed a policy covering sanitary sewer billing procedures and collection of past charges. He noted as a result of those discussions, Resolution 14-15 is ready for adoption.

Mr. Seeds noted that he must abstain from any discussion and or action on Resolution 14-15 regarding the Authority's policy for Sewer Rental Billing and Collection Policy due to a possible conflict of interest in his family.

Ms. Lindsey questioned what the outstanding fund amount is for the Sewer Authority. Mr. Wolfe answered that he does not have the overall number but the overall delinquent percentage is less than 5%. He noted that is partly due to the stepped-up collection procedures by Modern Recovery who has been contract by the Lower Paxton Township Authority to collect delinquent funds. He noted that Modern Recovery is recommending that the Board adopt this policy and procedures, noting that Modern Recovery attempts to address accounts before they become significantly delinquent, and this has helped to reduce our overall delinquency.

Mr. Hornung noted that he would like to be apprised of the delinquency amounts on a monthly basis.

Ms. Lindsey questioned, when the names were posted in The Patriot News newspaper and also on Penn Live in the spring, did many people make payments as a result of that news article. Mr. Wolfe answered that he did not know what it did for the collections but it created many phone calls to the Township Office. He noted that part of the problem was that the information that The Patriot News printed was three months old. He noted that the document that was requested through the Right-To-Know-Law was a March document and by the time the request went through the appeal process and was finally provided to the newspaper, many of the names that appeared in the document were no longer delinquent.

Mr. Crissman questioned if what Mr. Hornung is requesting is a report that would show the total amount billed, total amount collected and the outstanding or delinquent amounts. Mr. Wolfe noted that he could provide a 30 day, 60 day, and 90 day delinquent amounts. Mr. Crissman noted that he would like to see the entire picture.

Mr. Hornung noted that we used to review the overall numbers, and he was especially interested in how much is past 30 days etc., knowing that when you get past 90 days the percentage of collection drops way off. Mr. Wolfe noted that the Sewer Authority should be able to provide a detailed report.

Mr. Hornung noted that the amount of delinquencies has decreased since we have hired Modern Recovery. Mr. Wolfe agreed.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Resolutions 14-15 which establishes a Sewer Rental Billing and Collection Policy. Mr. Hornung seconded the motion. Mr. Seeds called for a roll call vote: Mrs. Lindsey, aye; Mr. Crissman, aye; Mr. Hornung, aye, Mr. Hawk, aye; and Mr. Seeds, abstained from voting.

Resolution 14-16; authorizing a sewer rental increase

Mr. Wolfe explained that the Authority adopted the 2015 Budget at its November 10, 2014 meeting. He noted that the budget was based upon a rate increase to \$130 per quarter for sanitary sewer treatment, providing for a \$5 per quarter increase. He noted by this resolution the Board is authorizing that rate increase.

Mr. Hornung noted that the Authority Board has projected what its rates should be for 20 years into the future. He noted that the Board is trying to average out the increase in costs to provide the increase as gently as possible and at the same time meet the needs of the Township as it is providing a very aggressive rehabilitation project which will cost over \$200 million. Mr. Wolfe noted that it will be well over \$200 million over a 20-year period. Mr. Hornung noted that these things need to be done as the Authority is required to do it; therefore we have to come up with the funding for it. He noted that the Authority Board is trying to do this and at the same time provide the least impact on its residents.

Mr. Seeds noted that the Authority is on the cutting edge in making the upgrades to the Authority infrastructure and that the Township is also working on the storm sewer system as well.

Mr. Crissman made a motion to approve Resolutions 14-16 that authorizes a sewer rental increase to \$130 per quarter. Mr. Hornung seconded the motion. Mr. Seeds called for a roll call vote: Mrs. Lindsey, aye; Mr. Crissman, aye; Mr. Hornung, aye, Mr. Hawk, aye; and Mr. Seeds, aye.

Adjournment

Mr. Hawk made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and the meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Maureen Heberle
Recording Secretary

William L. Hornung
Authority Secretary



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December 16, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that during the December 16, 2014 meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Sewer Authority, being a member and chairman of that Authority, I, William C. Seeds Sr., abstained from all discussion and voting on the adoption of Resolution 2014-15 to establish a Sewer Rental Billing and Collection Policy. My abstention was due to a possible conflict of interest with properties owned by my wife, Susan Seeds, in regards to a possible dispute over sewer rental fees.

Sincerely,

William C. Seeds, Sr.
Chairman
Lower Paxton Township Sewer Authority

WCS:mh