

The regular meeting of the Pennsville Sewerage Authority was called to order by Chairman Bernard Sennstrom II, at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 10, 2018 in the Municipal Building, 90 North Broadway, Pennsville, New Jersey. Chairman Sennstrom read the Open Public Meetings Act Statement and led all present with the Pledge to the flag.

Authority members present in addition to Chairman Bernard Sennstrom II were Robert McDade, and William Masten. Other attendees included Alternate Member John Smith, Alternate Member Dan Neu, Michael Napuda Esquire of Masten and Ray, William Mesogianes of Sickels and Associates, Superintendent Ronald E. Cooksey, Authority Engineer David Palgutta, Authority Clerk Diane Ford and Assistant Authority Clerk Kimberly Lockwood. Authority Members Mary Lou Chollis and Scott Hourigan were absent.

Chairman Sennstrom asked the Board if they had reviewed the monthly budget report.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-49-SA APPROVING PAYMENT OF BILLS PROPERLY AUDITED**

Member McDade moved for adoption of Resolution No. 18-49-SA and Member Smith seconded. Roll call vote as follows: Masten – yes; McDade – yes; Sennstrom – yes; Smith – yes; Neu – yes. Resolution No. 18-49-SA is approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-50-SA APPROVING MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PENNSVILLE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY WHICH TOOK PLACE ON APRIL 12, 2018**

Member McDade moved for adoption of Resolution No. 18-50-SA and Member Masten seconded. Roll call vote as follows: Masten – yes; McDade – yes; Sennstrom – yes; Smith – yes; Neu – yes. Resolution No. 18-50-SA is approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-51-SA AUTHORIZING A SALARY INCREASE TO EMPLOYEE MATT MELITA**

Member McDade moved for adoption of Resolution No. 18-51-SA and Member Smith seconded.

Member Masten questioned the amount of the increase. Superintendent Cooksey said the amount on the resolution was accurate. Clerk Ford confirmed that there was an error on the resolution that had been corrected. Superintendent Cooksey pointed out that Matt Melita had passed his operator's license test and this was a contractual increase. Chairman Sennstrom congratulated Matt Melita on a job well done.

Roll call vote as follows: Masten – yes; McDade – yes; Sennstrom – yes; Smith – yes; Neu – yes. Resolution No. 18-51-SA is approved.

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-52-SA AUTHORIZING A SALARY INCREASE TO EMPLOYEE JOSH MELITA**

Member McDade moved for adoption of Resolution No. 18-52-SA and Member Smith seconded.

Member Masten asked if the inequality in salary between the two increases was due to a difference in the amount of time they each worked for the Sewerage Authority, considering they both took the same test. Superintendent Cooksey confirmed that the difference is a result of variations in longevity.

Roll call vote as follows: Masten – yes; McDade – yes; Sennstrom – yes; Smith – yes; Neu – yes. Resolution No. 18-52-SA is approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 18-53-SA AUTHORIZING THE TOWNSHIP'S CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER TO MAKE PARTIAL PAYMENT NO. 1 TO SOUTH STATE, INC. FOR THE EAST PITTSFIELD STREET PUMPING STATION FORCE MAIN REPLACEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$220,050.00.

Member McDade moved for adoption of Resolution No. 18-53-SA and Member Smith seconded.

Alternate Member Neu pointed out the amount was not what South State had originally requested, and asked if there was a reason for the difference in numbers. Member Masten asked if this amount was the retainment for the project. Engineer Palgutta said that the retainage is usually 2%, however seeing as the Authority is still monitoring the forcemain to make sure the pumping station is operating as it should it was decided that the retainment would be 10% until that time that it is discussed with the contractors prior to the recommendation to release the remaining 10% and the pumping station has proven satisfactory. Alternate Member Neu said the retainage process is new to him, and went over the process again aloud to clarify his understanding. Member McDade commented saying he was surprised they took everything in one payment. Engineer Palgutta agreed saying it seems unusual not to include other payments as well. Member Masten questioned the amount, pointing out that when he did the calculations for 10% he came up with a different number from what they're currently asking. Engineer Palgutta said he didn't catch the discrepancy in the numbers and that it was his understanding that they were taking the 10%. Member Masten explained he sees how the current number matches the original contract but with the updated numbers the percentages don't match up. Engineer Palgutta said they had originally requested a larger amount, but then there was discussion regarding the monitoring of the pumping station and it was decided they would only recommend the amount now shown in the resolution.

Roll call vote as follows: Masten – yes; McDade – yes; Sennstrom – yes; Smith – yes; Neu – yes. Resolution No. 18-53-SA is approved.

The first item for discussion was financial duties currently associated with accounts payable responsibilities. Assistant Clerk Lockwood explained the additional responsibilities that have fallen on accounts payable since payroll has been outsourced by Pennsville Township. The

Board briefly discussed these changes with Assistant Clerk Lockwood and Clerk Ford. The Board decided they would continue discussion further at the next meeting, where they would come up with a decision. Chairman Sennstrom said if any of the members have any questions for Assistant Clerk Lockwood in the meantime, they can reach out to her in the office directly.

The next item for discussion was the Engineer's Report. Engineer Palgutta reported:

- Already discussed payment to the contractors for the East Pittsfield Street forcemain.
- Lengthened the ongoing monitoring of the forcemain. Briefly spoke with Superintendent Cooksey regarding the performance of the station prior to the meeting. As discussed at the last meeting, intent was to be satisfied with the operation of the pumping station prior to moving forward with the paving contract. Everything has been functioning well as it has been monitored up to date, but they have not concluded the monitoring.
- Need to discuss preconstruction meeting for the roadway project. Contracts have been delivered and submitted for processing and review. Once the contracts get back to the office a preconstruction meeting will be scheduled. Any members of the board that want to attend may do so. They will be discussing the details as far as what they're going to do first, any signage, road closures, or detours if necessary, and how long it will take. Estimated 3 weeks based on what was proposed. Trying to work around a few specific dates, will get into more detail at the preconstruction meeting.

Chairman Sennstrom said June 21<sup>st</sup> is the high school graduation date and disruption needs to be avoided, so the project would need to be completed prior to or post-graduation. Member McDade asked if the contractor would be okay waiting that long before starting the project should they have to hold off until the end of June. He pointed out that the Authority got a favorable price so that the contractor could go to work. Engineer Palgutta said the contractors were picking up some additional work in the meantime, they can't get started until the contracts have been processed anyway. He proceeded to say that the intent was not to push it out that long. Chairman Sennstrom said they had discussed trying to have it completed prior to the date of graduation. Engineer Palgutta said he believes the contract period is a pretty short one. He explained the contractors are ready to go, they just need project managers in place. Member McDade asked if there would be a lot of concrete work. Engineer Palgutta said he believes there was about five to six hundred feet between the combination of both sides, and that isn't going to impact traffic a lot. He said he thinks traffic control will be minor, and they plan to work around the days that are best for the school.

- CIPP Liner. Received a couple of calls with questions in regards to CIPP lining. Been working with Superintendent Cooksey regarding these questions. One clarification that was asked was in regards to the warranty of the product, so that information was provided. Unaware of any other questions being asked at this time. Opening currently set for May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10 a.m. Hopeful to have something to award at the next meeting.

Superintendent Cooksey said there are about eight bidders who have picked up, which is right around what they got the last time.

The next item for discussion is the Superintendent's Report. Superintendent Cooksey reported:

- Working on video inspections and grease traps.
- Proficiency testing samples passed.
- Sinkhole on Route 49 and Lippincott Avenue. Concern about sewer lines. Went out the day after it was discovered and the NJDOT was filling the sinkhole. Spoke to NJDOT and explained there was an abandoned sewer line under where the sinkhole was. Went out Sunday morning and dangled the video camera down to confirm the flowable fill was still in the pipe that they'd abandoned 22 years ago. Happy with what the camera showed. The following weekend there was a stoppage in that area. Believed that the stoppage was separate from sinkhole. Possibly came from filling around the manhole, and they had moved some grease down the line a little to the newer pipe. Cleared the stoppage. Because of the sinkhole and the stoppage occurring so close together, it would appear that the pipe was defective. Reached out to the police department that night and had a video crew out to inspect the short section of pipes. No leaks, or sand, or any other type of issue was found with the line. Comfortable in saying that there is no problem with the sewerage lines.

Alternate Member Smith said he had seen video trucks by the McDonald's and asked what they were doing over there. Superintendent Cooksey said that was Video Piping and he believed they were hired by the state road department to clean storm sewers.

- CIPP lining. Would like to have all the crossings on Route 49 lined, there are about 4 or 5 of them, to avoid problems. Everything looks okay. Still a sinkhole, possibly could have been from many years ago that's just now showing up due the pipe that was abandoned. Just a logical guess.

Alternate Member Smith asked if that would have been the pipe for the Forks operation. Superintendent Cooksey said it used to follow that road and went between the Burger King and where the Peterbilt lot is. He said that pipe collapsed and was abandoned, then they laid a new pipe in the state right-of-way off the roadway parallel to it. Superintendent Cooksey explained when they abandoned the pipe they did everything they were supposed to do. He goes on to explain the process that was carried out when the pipe was filled. Chairman Sennstrom said it is suspicious that the sinkhole all of a sudden appeared one day and the NJDOT filled it in only to have it open back up again a few days later. He explained that these reasons led him to believe there is some sort of active process going on there that's eating away at anything that put into the hole. Chairman Sennstrom said it can't be the sanitary pipes, there has to be another process that's causing the evacuation of the subsoil. Superintendent Cooksey said another possibility could be that the NJDOT didn't fill the void up all the way.

Member McDade said with all the vibrations in that area it would cause it to continue to compact after it was filled. Superintendent Cooksey said hopefully that is taken care of, he had been out and did everything necessary to confirm there was no issue with the pipes.

- Had DEP Inspection, everything went fine.
- Videoing for road overlays continues.
- Fire safety training completed.
- Replaced a VFD.
- Trees on East Pittsfield that were hanging over generators have been cut down. Had they fallen it could've put the pumping station out.
- Got a call that the gas company broke one of the service laterals while they were running a service to a property. The gas company did make the repairs. The mark was off because the guy that marked the pipe marked it straight from the main in the street when it should have been on an angle. Does not think it is going to be an issue.

Chairman Sennstrom said there was a question about the depth as well. Chairman Sennstrom said he had spoken to Assistant Superintendent Mark Kuhns and he said the depth of the lateral was three feet and they managed to go right through it. Chairman Sennstrom said it seems like one of those bad luck situations where both horizontally and vertically there was misjudgment. Superintendent Cooksey said he always makes sure to tell the guys that the onsite plumbing for the houses behind the property is really not their responsibility to mark out. They only mark where the lateral is, which is what someone else would go by and try to assume the line goes straight from that point. Superintendent Cooksey said he doesn't think there will be an issue because it occurred on private property, but he's really not certain where it stands currently. Chairman Sennstrom asked Superintendent Cooksey if he would like to speak about the video inspection on Gum Place where they found damage to the manhole within the high grounds that needed to be repaired. Superintendent Cooksey asked when that happened, and said he wasn't aware of the findings as he was out of town. Chairman Sennstrom said it was just a few days ago that Assistant Superintendent Mark Kuhns called him with a heads up. Chairman Sennstrom explained the manhole was within a property behind a fence which has to be accessed through Industrial Park Road. He went on to say that in the process of videoing the pipe in preparation for the road repaving they ran it to that manhole and when they tilted the camera to look up the manhole shaft they saw that the casting was damaged and the lid was displaced. They accessed the site and found that somebody had placed wood over it, so it seems someone damaged it and never notified the Sewerage Authority. Superintendent Cooksey said he wondered if it was a Sewerage Authority manhole, seeing as it is located on private property. Chairman Sennstrom said he did not know for sure, but it was repaired and is now secure. Alternate Member Smith asked when it was discovered. Chairman Sennstrom stated they found it just last week but he wasn't sure how long it was like that beforehand. Alternate Member Smith said he would think it could have happened during snowplowing. Chairman Sennstrom pointed out that it's located in the grass so they wouldn't

have plowed it. He went on to say that Assistant Superintendent Mark Kuhns mentioned to him it was an area where they had scrap palettes piled up so there may have been someone operating machinery that hit the manhole or something. Michael Napuda said he would check to see if there is an easement there. Alternate Member Smith asked if they were still doing reports for the DRBC. Superintendent Cooksey said yes, the tests are to be completed for the next two years as part of a nutrient study. Member Masten asked what a VFD was. Superintendent Cooksey said it is a variable frequency drive and it controls the speed of the pump.

The meeting was opened to the public. No public comment.

Member Masten commented, saying the minutes for April's meeting were outstanding.

Chairman Sennstrom entertained a motion to adjourn. Member McDade so moved and Member Smith seconded. All "aye", motion approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Taped by Diane L. Ford

Transcribed by Stevie-Nicole R. Tinklepaugh

Official tape and approved resolutions on file in the Sewerage Authority Office.

PENNSVILLE SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

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Scott Hourigan, Secretary