

Schwenksville Borough
Joint Meeting Borough Council and Borough Authority
January 27, 2021 at 7:00pm via ZOOM

Council President Darren Rash called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Dispense with saluting the flag.

Roll Call:

Borough Council: Darren Rash, Lee Ann Miller, Sarah Knickerbocker, Chris Melville.

Also in attendance: Borough Manager Anne Klepfer, Secretary/Treasurer Gail Phillips

Borough Authority: John Markley, Thomas Slater, Brian Pippert, Darren Rash

Also in attendance: Consulting Manager Mike Sullivan, Consulting Asst. Manager John Scully, Engineer Fred Ebert.

Absent: Mayor Joe Giunta

Infrastructure resilience: August 2020 storm raised concern from council regarding the undersized generator and no back up power at any of the wells or pump stations. Mike Sullivan responded compared to some of the other regional WWTPs, Schwenksville weathered the storm well. However, the Authority has taken steps to address deficiencies that became evident during and after the storm. A new generator will be on site Tuesday and is run by diesel. Also, for Council's information, the Authority is required by the PA Department of Environmental Protection to submit a Facility Resilience Report and DEP requires that you have redundant supplies or backup generator or a combination of both to ensure you have a constant water supply. The Plant was up and running within 24 hours.

Flooding: Mr. Ebert explained that as far as the flood there's three options, you can either raise the berms, elevate the equipment or you pump out. The Authority uses standard operating procedures and most importantly training. Mrs. Klepfer made sure the Authority is aware that any change in stormwater drainage or earth disturbance/regulated activities require Storm Water Permit Applications and all construction activities in the Floodplain Zoning District require a Zoning Permit from the Borough. The Borough expects these applications to be submitted for review to Mrs. Klepfer not directly to the Borough Engineer.

Managing the smell: Mr. Ebert continued, there are a number of steps that the Authority can try to stop the odor from forming and spreading by containing and treating it and by directing it away from the public. The exhaust fan is directed towards Main Street so that can be redirected in another direction and the Authority can add the activated carbon filters. Landscaping could also help. Sludging only occurs in the Spring, Fall and Winter. The Authority staff can notify the Borough when sludging is occurring and ask that the Borough please direct all complaints to the Authority Office. Mrs. Klepfer suggested that the Authority do some PR work with the residents to remind them that its not a waste of their time to pick up the phone or email to report when and what time the odor was noticed. Mike Sullivan asked that the residents call with time of

day, what was the atmosphere like. This will help to link what the authority was doing that time and day with the complaint. The Authority asked if this information could be distributed in the Borough's E-newsletter.

Storm Water Infrastructure: Darren Rash asked what is the Authority's position and how they felt they can manage it? Authority Board member Brian Pippert attended a class in Harrisburg on storm water and creating an authority. Brian sent the Planning Commission and Borough Council the presentation he attended, but deferred to Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Ebert. Mr. Sullivan said they haven't been engaged by the Borough to look at the storm water in depth. A lot of municipalities are looking into forming or incorporating storm water authorities into existing authorities. It is easier for authorities to create fees structures for these types of things than to rely on the tax base. This is more a utility base system since the authority is already billing people and operates like a utility. Mr. Rash said the Borough's engineer is working on a presentation and ideas and Mrs. Klepfer said they are working with Upper or Lower Providence on laying the ground work to create a storm water district. They have given us a proposal to do the preliminary ground work for Schwenksville and what it would look like. They told us they have quite a bit of the data already. Mr. Ebert said its good that the Authority stay out of it because it is more of a Regional Authority and that the storm water Authority will be basically for Schwenksville Borough only.

Infrastructure Replacement Plans: Mr. Rash has not seen a plan but sees the authority working on trying to reduce a lot of the infiltration issues with the sanitary sewer to try to reduce a lot of the loss due to leaky pipes around the Borough. The watermain on Main Street was at the end of its life. The Authority had a preliminary plan for Main Street water pipe replacement but had to do it sooner because of Penndot's repaving plan. Mr. Ebert stated that the Authority is still working on a comprehensive plan and is close to having it done. One of the primary things challenges is identifying in the Borough and Lower Frederick the deficient lines that will be first on the list to have replaced. Since the Authority restructured the finances, some things have been already been done for the Capital Improvements such as purchases for ground mites for the leak detection program which helped to reduce the percentage of leaks from 30 % to 10%. We have installed two water treatment systems, completely rehabilitated and painted the authority's three storage tanks, replaced the Main Street water and sewer pipes, replaced water main on Church Street, installed Emergency dialers on all pump stations and booster stations so that we get immediate notifications of failures. Purchased the portable diesel pump and rebuilt the intermediate pump station at the sewage treatment plant. Currently rehabilitating well #7. Worked on the Sewer Lateral Ordinance with the Borough. Mr. Rash would just like to see all water replacements be coordinated with the Borough. The Authority has plans for Woodland, Summit, Boulevard Avenues and Walnut Street for replacing pipes. We have laid out the plans and have done the same thing with Lower Frederick Township so we are not wasting money on repairs for a single lot and have all repairs done before the Borough does

any repaving projects. Mrs. Klepfer asked for copies of those plans. She also noticed that Upper Salford Township was mentioned a couple of times and asked if there inter municipal agreements with Upper Salford? Mr. Sullivan said it is in a draft form and has been presented to them. Are there similar agreements with Lower Frederick Township and Perkiomen Township form years and years ago? These were designated franchise areas. Particularly with Lower Frederick Township, when it went in default it was court ordered that it was assigned to the Borough Authority. The Upper Salford project is also a DEP mandate that the Borough Authority take it over.

Mr. Rash was wondering about the documentation for Council giving permission to expand out beyond Schwenksville Borough, how did the Schwenksville Brough Authority become a “Regional Authority”?

Upper Salford does not want an outside agency but the Federal Government mandated and the authority

Brough Ordinances and Compliance: The Authority needs to do a better job to Inform the Borough office and apply for permits in timely matter usually fifteen days for the permit application but immediate notification via text, telephone or email. Contact the Borough Office to let them know when any emergency repairs are being done (phone call, email) and when road work is being done and when closing roads.

Mr. Rash asked if there are enough EDU’s. Mr. Ebert said they update the connection management plan twice a year. Currently Centennial apartments has 28, there are five additional. Asking the Borough Council for a projection of EDU’s that the authority can request primarily for Redevelopment for the next five years. Mr. Ebert would need this information by the end of February to be included in the next update.

Old Business: Lee Ann Miller stated she has attended at least two joint meetings along with John Markley, everyone else is new. This was a great meeting. The progress she is hearing especially with the water infiltration and the plans are concrete practical steps. It’s impressive and she likes the progress in the last ten years. Working together, sharing things in the newsletter and Anne can share the Borough’s five-year plan with the authority. Would like more meetings to open the lines of communication. Thank you all.

Mr. Sullivan thought it also was a great meeting. More communication with the road projects, wants the plan is finalized on the authority’s side to replace some of the galvanized pipes another meeting should be held with staff or full boards. The authority’s Engineer Report is updated monthly and in in the Authority Packet given to Council.

Future Joint Meetings: Every six months – January or February and July or August.

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Motion to adjourn the meeting Lee Ann Miller second Sarah Knickerbocker. Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail L Phillips
Secretary/Treasurer