

**Mount Holly Springs Borough Authority
200 Harman Street
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065**

**Regular Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2019**

CALL TO ORDER

Authority Chairman Mike Gwozdecki called the December 11, 2019 Borough Authority meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Gwozdecki, Judy Russell, Ed Kendall, Marlin Stoner, Brian Robertson, GHD Representative Nancy Adams and Jim Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT Borough Manager/Chief Tom Day and Solicitor Mark Allshouse

RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

Rachel Bear asked the Authority why a rate increase was approved for next year. Mike Gwozdecki stated when the budget was created for 2020, the budget reflected a need for additional revenue. Ms. Bear went back from 2016 to this year and it looks like the Authority accumulated \$300,000. Even with the property purchase, there is an extra \$20,000 in the total assets and why would there be a need for a rate increase. Mr. Gwozdecki stated the Authority is trying to make sure there is enough resources when the infrastructure needs upgraded. The pipes would need replaced in time since they are very old. Ms. Bear asked about the timeline for the repairs. Mr. Gwozdecki responded by saying the Authority has not got that far. Mr. Gwozdecki indicated the Authority purchased a piece of property for the possibility of providing water to Liberty Woods. They are having a lot of issues with the soil and wells caving in. One property owner has drilled 3 wells. Ms. Bear asked what the projected timeline was for providing water to Liberty Woods. Mr. Gwozdecki stated the Authority is doing a whole analysis on it and could as long as 10 years. Nancy Adams indicated there has to be a hydrogeology study and lots of permitting that would need done and permitting process could take 5-10 years. There is also ongoing repairs to the systems that are only getting older.

Ms. Bear asked if the Authority has to keep, by law, a certain amount in the reserve accounts. Judy Russell replied the attorney had stated there has to be a specific amount but she was not sure what he had said. Mr. Kendall indicated it is only recommended and it is only \$100,000 or \$200,000.

Ms. Bear asked how many years remained on the loan. Mr. Kendall stated the Authority has been paying on the loan for five years. Mr. Gwozdecki stated the loan principal balance was \$1,977,000. Ms. Bear suggested to the Authority to borrow the money from the water account to pay off the sewer loan. Mr. Gwozdecki stated the solicitor recommended not to do that.

Mr. Kendall stated he didn't feel the Authority needed to raise the rates even though they are projecting to do something down the road. Mr. Kendall did not feel the rate increase was justifiable.

Jody Fritz, 34 Center Street indicated the sewer bill is killing their finances and the rate increase at this point is not justifiable.

Mike Gwozdecki stated the rate increase was discussed and the Authority has been trying to hold costs down each year.

Jason Kennedy asked why there is not a plan in place since no project would start for 5-10 years. Rachel Bear stated it would be nice to know what the Authority is going towards and get that information out to people that are paying for it. Jody Fritz stated the Authority should hold off on the increase until there is a plan.

Jody Fritz indicated she just found out about the rate increase within the past two weeks otherwise she would have been at the meetings a lot sooner.

Judy Russell asked if Nancy could come up with some kind of estimate of just getting started on the project such as fees the Authority would have to pay that could be put out to the public. Nancy Adams replied yes.

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-NOVEMBER 14, 2019

Judy Russell made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 14, 2019 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Marlin Stoner. Motion passed.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL-NOVEMBER 2019

Judy Russell made a motion to approve payment of the water and sewer bills for November 2019. The motion was seconded by Ed Kendall. Motion passed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Nancy Adams reported the re-rate for the sewer plant is underway. They met with DEP last week to review with them the plan and what permitting is necessary. DEP was in agreement. The submittal would be in February.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT No report

OLD BUSINESS

Mike Gwozdecki asked Jim to look into along with Pat an insurance claim for the damaged VFD (Variable Frequency Drive).

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report-Ed Kendall made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2019 as submitted. The motion was seconded by Marlin Stoner. Motion passed.

Borough Report-Jim Collins stated the Borough would be looking into whether or not the Borough would change pension providers.

Ed Kendall asked if they could discuss changing the pension plan to a 401K. Jim Collins stated under State Law the Borough cannot go to a 401K plan and is a 457 and can only be started under certain circumstances. The Borough can't get rid of they already have.

Mike Gwozdecki asked Jim Williams to obtain a quote for water leak listening devices from Exeter Supply who supplies most of the devices to municipalities. The quote was \$4750.00. This would be used for water leaks. Mr. Gwozdecki stated this would be paid from the water, repair and maintenance line item from this year's budget. Jim Williams indicated Exeter would provide some training.

Brian Robertson made a motion to approve the purchase of a water leaking listening device, Model GUTAQ3 combo Aqua Scope with a combined geophone. The motion was seconded by Judy Russell. Motion passed.

ADJOURN

Mike Gwozdecki adjourned the December 11, 2019 Borough Authority meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fisher
Utility Billing Clerk