

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

**Regular Meeting Minutes
December 10, 2020**

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Gwozdecki called the December 10, 2020 Borough Authority meeting to order a 6:00 p.m. Members stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Gwozdecki, Judy Russell, Brian Robertson, Marlin Stoner, GHD Representative Nancy Adams, Solicitor Mark Allshouse, WWTP Supervisor Jim Williams

MEMBERS ABSENT Deb Halpin-Brophy

BOROUGH Tom Day

REVIEW OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES-NOVEMBER 12, 2020

Judy Russell made a motion to approve the November 12, 2020 regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Marlin Stoner. Motion passed.

BILLS FOR APPROVAL-NOVEMBER 2020

Brian Robertson made a motion to approve payment of the water and sewer bill for November 2020. The motion was seconded by Judy Russell. Motion passed.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Maple Street Well

Nancy Adams reported Steve Read is working with drillers to obtain three quotes for drilling the second well. Once those are obtained, she will forward to the Authority for approval. Mr. Read's efforts on the aquifer testing plan are placed on hold until the second well is drilled. Ms. Adams stated drilling is planned to happen in the spring per the Borough's request since seeding/stabilization during winter months is not an option.

Mike Gwozdecki asked Nancy about the possibility of using the well that's on the property now as a secondary well. Mr. Day stated according to GHD it would not suffice the needs of the Authority. Ms. Adams indicated the original construction of that well was not such that it would be a public water supply.

UV System Review proposal of ATS

Nancy Adams sent members a report on the proposal for the UV replacement system. Ms. Adams had laid out some concerns on using ATS. GHD would not take on the risk of recommending them as a replacement manufacture to the Trojan unit that is there. Mr. Gwozdecki stated there would be a permit required do to the fact the Authority would be changing manufactures of the current UV system. Ms. Adams replied yes. You would still need to go through the pre-application meeting process with DEP to present the full details of the project and get their feedback on the permit requirements.

Mike Gwozdecki stated when GHD did the initial review, did GHD have any information on what ATS has done thus far and what their background was. When ATS responded, they gave an elaborate description of the history. Mr. Gwozdecki asked Nancy if GHD looked into if what they were stating was true. Ms. Adams indicated no and it seems they are putting a lot of backing on their management employee that came from Wedeco or was involved in Wedeco. They are applying that persons experience to this project.

Nancy Adams stated some of GHD concerns are still not being addressed such as do they have another system in place somewhere that can be looked at by the Authority. That would normally be the first step to look for. Mr. Gwozdecki stated it was his understanding that they do not have another system in place.

Mr. Gwozdecki asked Nancy if she felt the equipment was compatible to the Trojan system or something similar. Mr. Robertson added ATS had no design proposal either. Ms. Adams stated based on what she has seen, they are not "an equal" so their bid would not qualify to be reviewed because they would not meet the specifications.

Mr. Day indicated Trojan is an established company but yet we are dealing with issues with their products now and have been for years. Rob Filson is preparing to invest quite a bit of money into engineering fees for the design of this. Mr. Day stated they want to make sure that this system is installed correctly and are willing to post the bond for the full amount to make sure the systems in correctly.

Ms. Adams stated it would be one thing if they coming to you and saying we want to set up a pilot system at the treatment plant and have a slipstream running through our system, pay for everything and get it through the validation process and prove to the Authority that ATS has a working adequate system to treat the discharge, but the Authority should not have to pay for that. The Authority shouldn't have to pay for ATS to prove their design works. Mr. Day stated that is what they are doing essentially. They are doing it for half the price and posing a bond. Ms. Adams indicated they said they would post a bond of \$73,000 but that would not cover the cost of a replacement system. Ms. Adams would want to see more bonding. After installation they run it for 6 months to a year to make sure it runs properly then maybe send a bill. But to ask the Authority to take on risk so they can get their proof of their product is to must risk for the Authority to take on. GHD would not sign off of it as an engineer. If they go through this project then they can sell these units to any municipality our size, the Authority would be the ones that funded that.

Nancy Adams stated GHD has done no review of a design. They reviewed the proposal as presented. If something should get submitted to DEP as it stands now, GHD would not be the engineer on record for the project.

Mike Gwozdecki asked Mr. Allshouse as an entity, is the Authority allowed to do this. Mr. Allshouse replied it would have to be bid. Mr. Gwozdecki stated if they decide as an Authority that there is someone out there they want to give an opportunity to design a system that is an experimental site can it be done. Mr. Allshouse indicated it cannot be the primary that's required by the Authority's fiduciary duty to provide clean water. If the Authority wants to give them a slip stream, but have another system that runs all the customers so they can test and design it would be fine. But it cannot be put on as the primary as a replacement to the Trojan without bidding it. Mr. Day stated when the bid is put out and there are going to specifications for the bid and if ATS comes in and install that system as per the specifications and they are low bidder, the Authority would have to accept it. Mr. Allshouse stated if they are "like kind" or "equal to". The Authority could get sued for accepting not "as equal" if it doesn't meet the specifications. ATS has no system design so Mr. Allshouse didn't know how they could be "like kind".

Mr. Day asked why the UV system was not replaced when they did the upgrade. Ms. Adams stated seven years ago when the plant was upgraded, the UV system had no problems at that time.

Mr. Day indicated it was his understanding they use all market parts such as the bulbs and transformers. Ms. Adams stated there would be some design in the communication between the unit and the control panel.

Mr. Day asked Ms. Adams what it would take for GHD to support ATS. Ms. Adams stated GHD would meet with them or ATS would give GHD their shop drawings or design for review.

Mr. Allshouse stated acceptance of the systems would be a condition of DEP's approval of the new system they are trying to put in.

Mike Gwozdecki stated the problem is it can't be used as the main UV system. Ms. Adams strongly recommended a meeting be set up with DEP to review the project and get their approval in concept.

Mike Gwozdecki stated a meeting should be conducted with Mr. Filson. Mr. Gwozdecki indicated the Authority may go through with this but it would have to be set up as a test site and he can't just take over the whole system. Mr. Gwozdecki asked about bidding. Mr. Allshouse stated you would not be bidding the whole system. You can make your bid specs narrow enough to be a temporary or secondary or redundancy type system. It still has to be bid. Mr. Gwozdecki concern was they would install the system then decide it was not profitable and step back from it.

Mark Allshouse asked Nancy if they come into test, does GHD still back the design of the existing system with Trojan and if ATS gets a channel to test in, does that take GHD's backing backwards. Ms. Adams replied no. That would make ATS a substitution to the product that is being specified.

Mark Allshouse stated if it going to bid, it is not bid as a replacement or substitution for the existing system, it would be bid as a redundancy system. A fail safe system that's not meant to be a permanent solution. It would change the bid specs but it doesn't change the integrity of the design system.

Mark Allshouse indicated whether the Authority is expending on a full system or a secondary system it's still an expenditure of public funds on the water system. If ATS wants to do it for free, that's ok. But once the Authority is spending taxpayer dollar, it has to be justified for the taxpayers benefit.

Mark Allshouse indicated the Authority can let ATS come in and test and if it gets passed and the Authority satisfied with it the Authority would pay them a certain price for it.

Nancy Adams stated a meeting would have to be set up with DEP. There is no point in going through with all of this if DEP would not permit it.

Mike Gwozdecki states the \$85,000 expenditure approved last month is void. The condition was not met.

Nancy Adams stated should the Authority approve, GHD can have a one on one conversation with Mr. Filson.

The Authority agreed to have Nancy, Tom and Jim move forward with the conversation on the UV situation.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mark Allshouse report he was working with Nancy on the UV system matter.

OLD BUSINESS

Tom Day reported he did not purchase a backhoe from the Group sale. It had too many hours on it.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurers Report-Brain Robertson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2020 as presented. The motion was seconded by Marlin Stoner. Motion passed.

Borough Report-Tom Day reported the fire hydrant the lady hit at 511 N. Baltimore Avenue has been replaced. The estimated cost to the Authority was \$2500 and should be reimbursed by her insurance company.

Tom Day reported the guys did an excellent job replacing the fire hydrant on Mill and Orange Street.

Tom Day reported there was a waterline break at 26 E. Pine Street. The homeowner will be reimbursing the Authority \$600.

Mike Gwozdecki reported he had a meeting with Tom and the employees at the wastewater treatment plant about benefits. The team is working very well together and they have an understanding on how the weekend calls need to be.

Nancy Adams reported the sludge hauling contract expires in April. GHD is putting together bid documents to be bid in January.

ADJOURN

Mike Gwozdecki adjourned the December meeting at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Fisher
Utility Billing Clerk