

**UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022**

The meeting of the Upper Providence Township Sewer Authority was held on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. It was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman, Michael Byrne.

**Those present:** Mr. Michael Byrne  
Mr. David Daniel  
Ms. Patricia Hall, Office Manager  
Mr. Matthew B. Hayes  
Mr. James P. Kelly, P. E.  
Mr. Kevin M. Matson, Operations Manager  
Ms. M. Elizabeth Naughton-Beck  
Mr. Robert Powell

**Those not present:** Mr. Gregory M. Mallon, Esq.  
Mr. Ed Reardon, new board member as of 1/27/22

**Others attending:** Mr. Elgin Akarsoy, Carlton Place  
Mr. Vincent DelVacchio, N. Ridley Creek Road  
Ms. Chrisen Rexing, Birnam Wood Lane  
Mr. Don Vymazal, Upper Providence Township Manager

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Akarsoy, Township Council Chairman, had several questions concerning the Sewer Authority's request for council's guarantee of the \$1.2 million dollar loan from DVRFA for the rebuilding of the Bortondale pump station. During the lengthy discussion, he asked about the interest rate for the loan. Mr. Byrne said we will not know the rate until DVRFA has a commitment from us and if council doesn't guarantee the loan, we will have to start the timely process all over again and interest rates are going up. He then provided information on the history of the Bortondale pump station and the Middletown Township Sewer Authority and our 1997 contract with them, and the current emergency situation at the station. He stated that if the pump station fails, it will be a public health issue, will be extremely expensive to correct, and will cost our rate payers more money. He noted that council has never denied signing any guarantee for any loan. Ms. Hall added that with the township guarantee on the loan, there will be no insurance for borrowing a million dollars; but without the loan guarantee, we will have to get insurance. Mr. Kelly provided additional information on the situation as did members of the board.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2022 were reviewed.

**MOTION:** Mr. Matthew B. Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2022 as presented. Seconded by Mr. Robert Powell. Motion carried unanimously. (MOTION 22-02-15)

**INCOME AND EXPENSES**

**MOTION:** Mr. Robert Powell moved to approve the voucher list of February 9, 2022, with total expenses of \$146,424.55, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Matthew B. Hayes. Motion carried unanimously. (MOTION 22-02-16)

Mr. Byrne referred to Item #17 Site Specific Design, Inc. invoice No. 63972 (\$26,130.00) for our purchase of 10 pump cores. This purchase was approved at last month's meeting. Ms. Hall noted that, after she and Mr. Byrne discussed this unbudgeted expense, they decided that the money should be taken out of the PLGIT/Prime account (capital reserve).

**MOTION:** Mr. Robert Powell moved to take \$26,130.00 to pay Invoice No. 63972 (purchase of 10 cores) out of the PLGIT/Prime account. Seconded by Mr. Matthew B. Hayes. (MOTION 22-02-17)

**MOTION:** Mr. Robert Powell then moved to amend Motion 22-02-17 to increase the sum of \$26,130.00 to cover four expenditures \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63815), \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63890), \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63930), and \$4,618.00 (Invoice No. 64037). Seconded by Mr. Matthew B. Hayes. Motion carried unanimously. (MOTION 22-02-17)

**REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

No reports.

**OPERATIONS MANAGER'S REPORT**

The following is a summary of grinder pump repair costs for 2022.

	<u>Calls</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>	<u>Agreement Savings</u>
2022	31	\$12,428.51	\$4,349.97

New full pump - \$4,618, covered by tapping fee  
Pump cores - 13 @ \$33,894.00

Mr. Matson referred to the issue of our tapping fee. The original fee set for the area north of the bypass included a "special project component" of \$2,300, which no longer covers the current full pump cost of \$4,618.00. A situation occurred where

the homeowner of a residence on Ridley Creek Road, who was part of our project, did not connect to the sewer then and now wants to connect. Since costs have increased dramatically and our tapping fee as it stands (\$5,700.00) does not cover the purchase of the pump, the board may want to consider a policy change where the homeowner pays the difference between the original pump cost and today's cost or revisit our tapping fee and consider amending the tapping fee schedule. Mr. Byrne wants the resident to pay the difference and would like to have a policy.

There are 1,660 E-One grinder pumps in our system. The trends show about 20 core replacements per year. Three replacements have been made so far through February 9, 2022.

Site Specific has reported changes to their current fee schedule.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>UPSA Old Rate</u>	<u>Site's New Rate</u>	<u>UPTSA 2022 Rate</u>
Inspection Fee	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$150.00
Hourly Rate	\$95.00	\$125.00	\$110.00
Emergency/Off-Hour Rate	\$145.50	\$175.00	\$165.00

The years-to-date summary for PA One Call activity showed:

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Clear – no facilities	455	913	47
Field Marked	520	1125	96
Other	94	169	23
Total	1069	2207	161 (trending to 1469 for 2022)
Response Rate	100%	99.95%	96.99%

Mr. Byrne referred to the expense involved with PA One Calls and asked township council to consider what they could do to reduce these costs. Mr. Powell mentioned Mr. Kelly's idea where the township could assist us with this through the "road opening permits".

The pre-construction meeting for the Bortondale pump station was held on February 3, 2022.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

No reports.

#### REPORTS OF CONSULTANTS

**MR. JAMES P. KELLY, ENGINEER**

All contractors and representatives were present at the pre-construction meeting for the Bortondale pump station on February 3. At the meeting, both the electrical and GC contractors reported that material deliveries are expected to take five months. The GC also reported that Bortondale Road will need to be closed for a period of time while crane operation off loads and sets pre-cast wet well sections. Mr. Kelly has contacted PennDot to start the detour plan process.

Mr. Kelly met with representatives from Aqua yesterday, February 8, to explore the feasibility of re-routing the Bortondale PS flow to the Media WWTP. The option was well received and they agreed that it is a viable option worth evaluation.

Regarding sewer mapping, the list of grinder pumps installed from 2021 to date was received. Mr. Kelly will inspect and collect data to be added to the web map. Mr. Byrne explained to the visitors that the Authority had initiated a GPS mapping program for the entire sewer system enabling us to know the exact location of the pipes. It is state-of the-art, and makes the system a lot more valuable.

**MS. M. ELIZABETH NAUGHTON-BECK, SOLICITOR**

Ms. Naughton-Beck is in the process of receiving and reviewing Sewer Authority files and information she has received from Mr. Pinto.

**MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**MOTION:** Mr. Matthew B. Hayes moved to approve the sale of the Sewer Authority van. Seconded by Mr. Robert Powell. Motion carried unanimously. (MOTION 22-02-18)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

None.

**MOTION:** Mr. Robert Powell moved to adjourn the meeting of February 9, 2022. Seconded by Mr. David Daniel. Motion carried unanimously. (MOTION 22-02-19)

The meeting ended at 9:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on March 9, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mrs. Stella B. Thompson  
Approved \_\_\_\_\_

**UPPER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY**  
**MOTIONS FOR 2022**  
**FEBRUARY**

- 15. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of January 12, 2022 as presented.**
- 16. Approval of the voucher list of February 9, 2022, with total expenses of \$146,424.55, as presented.**
- 17. Approval to take \$26,130.00 to pay Invoice No. 63972 (purchase of 10 cores) out of the PLGIT/Prime account.**
- 17. Amending of Motion 22-02-17 to increase the sum of \$26,130.00 to cover four expenditures \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63815), \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63890), \$2,588.00 (Invoice No. 63930), and \$4,618.00 (Invoice No. 64037).**
- 18. Approval of the sale of the Sewer Authority van.**
- 19. Adjournment of the meeting of February 9, 2022.**

