

**FOX TOWNSHIP SEWER AUTHORITY MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 13, 2021 – PAGE 1**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Russ Braun, Carole Harshbarger, Ken Huey, Michael Kamandulis and Jerry Zimmerman.

OTHERS PRESENT: Shawn Zimmerman, Shane Buzard, Operators, Tom Holleran of HRG Engineering and Juli A. H. Schlimm, Authority Clerk.

VISITORS: Zachary Handwerger, Acorn Street resident.

ZACH HANDWERGER was recognized first. Mr. Handwerger was here last month asking for a variance to our regs for connecting his residential garage. He had informed the board he had entered into an Indenture Agreement with his neighbors which stated his property would only be for residential use. There was some type of issue and the attorney his neighbors had hired never recorded the agreement. Mr. Handwerger felt it was to his benefit not to have it recorded as it had many other restrictions. Mr. Handwerger is interested in entering into an agreement with FTSA stating his garage can be Y-piped off the house connection. The garage will only ever be used for residential purposes and **his own use**. There was discussion that the garage could never be used for an apartment, living quarters or anything but a residential garage. There would have to be an agreement created by our lawyer that would accompany Mr. Handwerger's land deed forever even if the property were ever sold. Board members said Mr. Handwerger would be responsible for our lawyer fees in creating such an agreement. Russ Braun moved to grant Mr. Handwerger a variance and enter into an agreement in recordable form with him, the motion was seconded by Ken Huey, motion carried. Solicitor Devittorio is to be contacted to create the agreement. Mr. Handwerger will be responsible for all legal costs involved.

ELECTRIC RATES: Members were again provided with electric rates from Integrity Energy for the time periods of forty-two (42) or thirty-six (36) month periods. The forty-two (42) month time period is @ .0577/kwh with Engie. Northeast Energy Advisors provided rates of .0566/kwh but on the time information is states through 11/30/21. Juli was unsure why it was only through the end of November of 2021 and not like Integrity provided. Juli will contact them again. Our present contract is good through May of 2023.

THE MEETING MINUTES of: September 8, 2021 were approved as written and were previously distributed, as moved by Russ Braun, seconded by Carole Harshbarger, motion carried.

TOM HOLLERAN OF HRG PRESENTED HIS ENGINEERING REPORT FOR TONIGHT – The RAS Pump Station Mixer estimated project cost if \$35,400. It is understood after discussing other items take priority in our 2022 Budget. If this is a future consideration the cost would need to be revised.

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FIRST CHANCE GREASE TRAP was again the discussion. Tom Holleran did speak with our solicitor on this matter. Tom stated his position is that the entire line needs cleaned from their lateral the whole way down to our lift station. Tom spoke about the Authority surcharging for the discharge into our system if the owners don't cooperate. The operators reported when cleaning the Twp. lift station they flow into, they had thirteen (13) bags of grease approximately thirty pounds (30lbs) each. Per Shawn this is after only three (3) months since it was cleaned last. Members discussed options to make them comply with installing the larger one thousand (1000) gallon grease trap, as recommended by HRG. The members also discussed sending the owners the invoices for the cost to clean the lift station on a regular basis. Last year it cost the Authority over three thousand dollars (\$3,000). It was also discussed that the Authority has been dealing with this unresolved issue for a long period of time. The owners have not taken any recommendations previously made to correct this problem. There was also discussion on Ray Krise, Jr. and Larry Neureiter owning both adjoining properties (319 and 317 Main St.). Per the solicitor the alleyway between the properties would belong half to each property. The Board asked Juli to contact Solicitor Devittorio to write a letter to the owners. There was conversation on what our regulations allow FTSA to enforce. The Authority should be able to stop First Chance from dumping excessive grease into our system. Jim is to include verbiage on what options the Authority has. Members asked that he do whatever it takes to resolve this situation. Members also asked if we may bill them for Solicitor's Devittorio's services? Carole stated it would have been easier to invite Jim to our meeting for discussion. Jerry said his correspondence said he wasn't available for tonight. Pictures were shared with members of the lift station condition. First Chance owners are to be given a thirty (30) day period to address and correct the problem as moved by Russ Braun, seconded by Ken Huey, motion carried. Mr. Krise had originally said he would fix it in the fall. We have been trying to move him along for months. There was additional conversation that First Chance and the rental house next door were re-routed during a PennDOT Project to be the only customers flowing into that lift station from Main Street. Shane mentioned there are recommendations within the solicitor's correspondence of 10/8/21.

AUTUMN COURT SUBDIVISION the low-pressure system is under review.

CHICKEN HILL DISTILLERY EXPANSION – Tom Holleran reported meeting with the owner of the facility and our operators on site to discuss the expansion. It was recommended the existing mainline be extended across the entire front of the lot with a terminal cleanout provided. Because of the nature of their business it was also recommended the floor drains be connected to the sanitary sewer line. They don't intend to do any cooking per Shawn. If this changes a grease trap will be required.

ACT 57 CONNECTION FEE STUDY was again discussed. HRG had reviewed the information and calculations. The scope of the proposal remains the same. The fee for doing the study is seven thousand eight hundred dollars (\$7,800). A formal proposal would be provided if FTSA moves

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ACT 57 CONTINUED:

forward with this. There was discussion that our connection fees have not been increased since before the Million Dollar Highway Project. Members thought because of the expense of the Act 57 Study they would wait. The Authority didn't have any new taps this year. Members felt it is reasonable to increase the connection fee from the current amount of twenty-five hundred dollars (\$2,500) to three thousand two hundred dollars (\$3,200). There hasn't been an increase for many years (2008). It was moved by Russ Braun, seconded by Carole Harshbarger, to raise the tapping fee for the 2022 Budget.

WEHLER'S ROW – A sanitary sewer easement was prepared by Curry and Associates for the Wehler property on Oak and Acorn Streets as was recommended by Roadmaster Randy Gradizzi. The Township is considering taking the road over. Randy noticed there was an easement shown on the map. There wasn't an actual written document for this purpose. Juli contacted Curry who then provided this and was signed by the Wehler's. This was forwarded to the solicitor for review and recording.

WHITE OAK TEST RESULTS were received and reviewed.

THE AUGUST DISCHARGE MONITORING REPORT was presented for review. Twenty-four point forty-five (24.45) tons of sludge was hauled in September.

PLANT MONTHLY REPORT – Shawn told members they had problems with the press. A sensor went on it. It was hard to find replacement parts. It is up and going again. They have been pressing every day this year. They are pressing a lot more than they did in the past. Last year they hauled five (5) times. This year they are on load thirteen (13). This is the reason for an increase in chemicals and our water expense. This is a seasonal thing so it will be done up until November. The surface aerator will be also taken out in November. There is a shield on the aerator that needs repaired. Shawn is considering taking it out to Dinsmore Welding. The motor will be rebuilt and the bearings will be checked. This way it will be ready for next spring. Shawn said a future consideration for this would be to install a crane. This will be for the 2023 Budget.

BILLS TO BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT AND PAID WITH CHECK # 3581 TO CHECK #3630 for the month of October in the amount of seventy-two thousand seven-hundred twenty-eight dollars and seventy-one cents (\$72,728.71), of which fifty-three dollars (\$53) was reimbursable, approved as moved by Carole Harshbarger, seconded by Ken Huey, motion carried. The bills included the annual fuel and disability insurance payments to the Township.

CLAIM – The electronic mother board for the generator destroyed by a mouse was not submitted to our insurance. The repair cost was the same as the deductible so there was no purpose in it.

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THE MUNICIPAL BENEFITS hospitalization renewal rates as emailed to members on 9/24/21 were discussed. The coverage remains the same as in 2021 with a two percent (2%) increase. It was moved by Ken Huey and seconded by Michael Kamandulis, to accept the increase for the upcoming year with the same coverage offered.

POLLU-TECH, INC.'S letter of 9/13/21 was received regarding all costs of cationic and anionic polymers are increasing between five and ten percent (5- 10%) This is the fifth (5th) increase in products costs with their company since 3/1/21. Three of five (3 of 5) of these were passed onto the customers. Ordering and availability of supplies was discussed with the operators.

OVERTIME HOURS were presented for the past month.

SOLICITOR DEVITTORIO'S SEPTEMBER FEE STATEMENT was received on October 1, 2021. A credit balance of three-thousand eight-hundred forty-five dollars and seventy-five cents -(\$3,845.75) remains.

ACCOUNT #3405 for LION was posted and turned over to St. Marys Water for water shut off for the past due amount of four hundred forty-nine dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$449.27). Their September bill brings their total owed to FTSA to five hundred two dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$502.27). Action was taken. A full payment was received on 9/24/21.

ACCOUNTS # 2190, 2191 AND 2192 FOR MEISER/HERBSTTRITT'S owe the past due amount of eight hundred eighty-four dollars and ninety-two cents (\$884.92). The property has been posted. St. Marys Water will do the shut off at their convenience.

DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS – There were six (6) properties posted on 8/19/21. Four (4) remain unpaid. These were turned over for shut off action which was taken on 10/14/21.

THE BILLS IN ARREARS REPORT as of 9/9/21 had ten (10) shut off letters sent out. Two (2) partial pays were received and two (2) remain unpaid. These will be posted for shut off.

THE BILLS IN ARREARS REPORT as of 10/10/21 was presented for review. Letters will be sent out to those accounts.

ST. MARYS INSURANCE AGENCY'S letter of 9/29/21 referencing a check in the amount of forty-eight dollars and ninety-three cents (\$48.93) was received from the municipal retrospective rating pool refund from 2019. It was received directly from Selective Insurance Company.

CDBG OF ELK COUNTY – We received an email from Becki Taylor, the Elk County CDBG Coordinator, requesting updated information on our Authority. Information was provided.

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PMAA – A letter was received from the PA Municipal Authorities Association. They are offering complimentary membership to us.

THE NEXT MEETING DATE: Wednesday, November 10, 2021 @ 5:00 p.m. for budget. 6:00 p.m. for our monthly meeting.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting adjourned as there was no other business @ 7:49 p.m.