

**MINUTES
NORTH LEBANON TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JOINT MEETING
DECEMBER 13, 2012**

An advertised special joint meeting of the North Lebanon Township Municipal Authority and the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors was held on Thursday, December 13, 2012 at 5:30 PM at the North Lebanon Township Municipal Building, 725 Kimmerlings Road, Lebanon, PA with the following people present:

Board of Supervisors

Edward A. Brensinger	Vice Chairman
Kenneth C. Artz	Treasurer
Cheri F. Grumbine	Township Manager
Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver LLP

Absent	Richard E Miller	Chairman
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Municipal Authority

Wynanne Demler	Chairperson
Gary Heisey	Vice Chairperson
Brian Hartman	Secretary
Susan Switzer Pierce	Assistant Secretary
Tod Dissinger	Treasurer
Sheila Wartluft	Assistant Township Manager
Mike Kneasel	Wastewater Foreman
Scott Rights	Authority Engineer
Frederick S. Wolf	Henry and Beaver LLP

The meeting was called to order and the pledge to the flag was recited. No residents were in attendance.

Solicitor Wolf stated this is a joint meeting of the North Lebanon Township Board of Supervisors and the Municipal Authority Board. He explained they have been holding this meeting for several years in order to discuss common issues and work through these issues in order to benefit the residents of the Township. He stated he had given the board members a history between the Board of Supervisors and the Municipal Authority beginning with the initiation of public sewer through the formation of the Municipal Authority to taking over the maintenance of the sewer lines. He further explained the difference in rate structure between the initial Township customers and then later the Authority customers and how they intended working to get everyone switched over to be Authority customers. Eventually the Authority and the Board of Supervisors made the decision to unify all the customer rates in the Township due to the fact the older lines were declining and in need of relining.

Sol. Wolf said the agenda tonight includes reviewing the budget, what is happening with water and sewer rates, the City rate increase for sewer to take effect July, 2013 with no water increase. Sol. Wolf mentioned everyone has been given a copy of the chart for the City Authority's new rates as opposed to their current rates.

Sol Wolf explained we would be acquiring some new customers through the Rockwood Project, which we are being required to complete with Swatara. He explained that Swatara customers will be paying their debt service plus our user rate charges. He reported the Authority is considering increasing the quarterly user rate \$3 per EDU with each residence being one EDU and commercial users being assessed EDUs by a rate chart. Chairperson Demler explained that if the rate increase is not included and we would have an emergency we would not want to use everything that is in reserve. Discussion followed regarding the rate increase. Scott Rights, engineer, explained the chart he had previously prepared showing a drop of a quarter million dollars over a ten year period at the current rate. Sol Wolf explained that replacement equipment and pump station issues are included in the capital reserve which had come primarily from tapping fees. Due to the decrease in new development, there is only a present projection of ten per year. Sheila added the potential for development is not there as it was when the Capital Reserve fund reached its current level. Sol Wolf mentioned we are trying to not incur any more debt. Discussion, including the Board of Supervisors and the Authority, followed regarding the rate increase with a consensus to not include a rate increase for 2013.

Sol Wolf reported the next topic is the operating budget. He asked Sheila if everything is set including employee expenses to which Sheila replied she had given the Board a revised budget with a \$2,000 decrease. She said currently the increase from 2012 is not quite at \$8,000 from last year's budget which is mainly wages, insurances, etc. with no drastic changes. Discussion followed regarding employee insurance. Sol Wolf explained that all the employees are Township employees and that all the employees are treated in the same way. Supervisor Brensinger explained that due to the police contract all Township employees plus the police department need to have comparable insurance. Question was asked when the police contract will be ending to which the answer was the end of 2013. Discussion continued regarding the benefits.

Suv Brensinger asked about the debt reduction and the bonds to which Sol Wolf explained the process with several different bond issues which were combined into one but that new issues continually arise. Sheila reported 2035 is when this current bond is to be paid off.

Sol Wolf said the next topic on the agenda is vehicle replacement. Sheila reported she had spoken with the mechanic regarding the SUV and that has not been recommended to be replaced for 2013. Sol Wolf explained the budget requests replacement of the 2004 truck. Mike reported the crane is inoperable after three attempts at repair. Suggestion was made by Tod Dissinger to buy a crane this year since there were no major repairs needed for the truck itself. Suv Artz and Suv Brensinger agreed that the crane needs to be replaced. Mike was asked a question about one of the pumps at the pumping station at Frances Ann Drive to which Mike replied they have one which is working and one is not. Mike explained they want to duplicate what is there but the company has not been able to duplicate what they need. Question was asked if this pump was similar to the other pumps at the other pumping stations. Discussion followed regarding the pumps and whether it would be feasible to rebuild the pump station. Sol Wolf explained at this point they are just discussing the budget and what might be needed.

Sol Wolf stated the next issue is employee contribution to the health care insurance and the fact that all Township employees are treated the same with the Authority requesting to take into consideration employee contributions.

Suv Brensinger said at this point we don't know how the new healthcare laws are going to affect employers and that we are already seeing some changes. He further mentioned that many municipalities have already requested employee contributions with others considering it.

Sol. Wolf mentioned the next item on the agenda is whether the Boards should meet more than once a year. Discussion followed with agreement between the Boards that twice a year may be beneficial taking into consideration all of the issues involved.

Sol. Wolf explained regarding the Rockwood Project that the contractor is moving faster than expected with the pumps anticipated to be delivered in approximately six months. Question was asked why the pumps were not ordered earlier. Scott explained that the initial contract was changed and due to changes with the PENNVEST loan and the H₂O Grant they were able to upgrade the type of pump station. Sol. Wolf said they had a meeting which included himself, Scott, Sheila, Mike, and Suv. Brensinger regarding what is expected of the contractor regarding the safety of the worksite and restoration of the roads. Scott is to compose a letter to be sent to the contractor with the Township and Authority's expectations for public safety for the winter months. Scott explained the water issues they have encountered at the Rockwood Project and how they are looking to alleviate the problem. Discussion followed regarding the water issues and what had previously happened in some of the older developments where water had been an issue. Question was asked what will happen when the laterals are being run to individual homes to which Scott and Suv. Brensinger explained that most likely they would have fewer problems than they previously had experienced. Suv Brensinger said he believed there was a line item for trench restoration but the contractor has disturbed more than just the trench and if they could overlay the road as opposed to just patching it with the Township contributing also to accomplishing this. Scott said by January they may be able to project where they are as far as line items and possibly look at ways to get this done. Question was asked if they could get an estimate regarding cost for the overlay. Suv Brensinger replied he could look into an estimate of costs and present them to the Authority.

Sol. Wolf stated that concludes the agenda for the joint meeting but would like to ask everyone if they have anything further to which the boards replied they were glad to be able to meet and discuss issues. Suv Brensinger mentioned he appreciated the work of the Municipal Authority Board.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 7:48.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theresa L. George
Recording Secretary