

**THE TOWNSHIP OF MAXATAWNY
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
THURSDAY APRIL 27, 2017
MINUTES**

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER: Chairman Garret Miller called the meeting to order at 7:30PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present: Michael Berger, Marlowe Graff, John Prange and Steve Wilson. Professionals present: Engineer, Tim Miller; Solicitor, Jill Nagy; Enforcement Officer; Chris Paff; Utilities Operator, Allen Leiby.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Miller informed the audience that the Authority met in executive session to discuss litigation. No decisions were made.

ACTION ON THE MINUTES:

1. Motion was made by Prange and seconded by Berger to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2017 MTMA Meeting. Motion passed (4-0).

REPORTS:

1. The monthly report was presented to the Authority.
2. Wehr also updated the Authority on the lien process for the properties that are overdue on their payments of water/sewer. Letters went out at the end of February to give the residents 30 days to pay their bill before placing the liens. About half of the residents that received the letter either paid off or significantly paid down their bills. There are currently about 15 properties that will be getting the lien filed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. USDA waterline grant/loan
 - a. Wehr informed the Authority that notice was received from USDA that they have set funds aside to fund the waterline replacement project for the Bowers Area.
 - b. Motion made by Prange and seconded by Berger to approve the loan process. Motion passed (5-0).
 - c. There was discussion among the Authority regarding their next steps.
 - d. Engineer Miller is ready to go with the field survey.
 - e. Motion made by Prange and seconded by Berger to have Engineer Miller proceed with the survey. Motion passed (5-0).
2. Karaisz property update
 - a. Solicitor Nagy updated the Authority on the property located at 15162/16164 Kutztown Rd. There was a decision rendered in February directing the owner to connect to the sewer. At this time, the owner has not paid the fee to connect. Nagy filed a petition of contempt earlier this week requesting there be no further occupancy of the property until payment is made, permits are issued and connection is made.

- b. Authority member Wilson added that the owner did not want to connect because he felt the rates were too high. He has fought this 3 times at the commonwealth court and has lost each time. He was ordered to hook up and pay all fines and fees, which now total around 6 figures. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania put the Township under consent order to put together the treatment facility in the area and the Authority will follow this to its completion.
- c. Chairman Miller stated that this is a large burden on the tax payers and feels that they are taking the appropriate action to get compliance.

NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Nothing at this time.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

1. Engineer – Tim Miller
 - a. Nothing at this time.
2. Solicitor – Jill Nagy
 - a. Solicitor Nagy informed the Authority that Kutztown Borough has approved the water plan and sent an agreement for Advantage Point which was the last thing that Advantage Point was waiting on so we can expect things to start progressing with the project in the near future.
3. Utility Operator – Allen Leiby
 - a. The Utility Operator report was presented.
 - b. Leiby reported that there was a small water line problem in a new tap-in that he fixed.
 - c. The Sewer plant is operating well. The grease situation has cleared up well.
 - d. Allen mentioned that there may be a grant opportunity available later this year. He suggested that the Authority may want to look into applying to dig a new well to replace an existing well that may be from the 1930's. Allen was not sure of costs due to DEP involvement.
 - e. Engineer Miller stated that he is currently doing some similar work for another Township and can get some numbers for approximate costs.

HEARING OF THE VISITORS AND PUBLIC COMMENT:

1. Steve Haring, owner of 615 Noble St., questioned the Authority if it will be adjusting the billing for 600 Noble St. since the zoning hearing decision that allowed more uses on the property.
2. Haring was informed that it would be looked into. Currently, the property has not expanded its uses and there is one previously approved use that does not have water service to it.

FINANCIAL MATTERS:

1. Motion was made by Prange and seconded by Wilson to pay the bills as presented. Motion passed (5-0).

2. Motion was made by Graff and seconded by Prange to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. Motion passed (5-0).

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jerilyn Wehr, Secretary/Treasurer