

MINUTES  
New Holland Borough Council Workshop  
April 24, 2019

New Holland Borough Council met in Workshop session on Wednesday, April 24, 2019 at 7 p.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Vice-President Todd C. Burkhart, James S. Bailey, Patrick K. Morgan, Terry S. Mohler, John A. Styer and Abby L. Keiser. President Donald J. Herrington was absent. Also present were Manager/Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, water consultant Jeff Bologa of Becker Engineering and resident Mike Kurtz.

Vice-President Burkhart opened the meeting, requesting consultant Bologa proceed with the new well update.

Mr. Bologa explained that the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) has provided a full review and indicated that the Authority can proceed with PA DEP for complete design review and approval for a 600 gallons per minutes well. After that is received, the SRBC will then schedule the Application for its formal Docket approval step. The well will be designed for the 600 gpm, but planned to be Permitted at an initial 500 gpm. This is because at 600 gpm an additional expensive testing process is required over a period of time. At 500 gpm use, this information can be identified during a normal operational period of time. Their firm is hoping to have the design and related plans to DEP for its initial review at the end of May. After final DEP approvals are received, it will go to the SRBC as noted. Hopefully the Authority would be able to go with it by late in the year. The Borough is very fortunate in that neither the new well or the existing ones are directly impacted by surface water. If they were, along with the planned softening, chlorination and air-stripper, an entire treatment plant process would also be required; which is a tremendous expense. The requested 600 gpm well is a major drawdown request and is looked at closely.

Member Keiser inquired if a cost estimate has been identified and is it planned for.

Manager Fulcher reported that the Authority has approximately \$1.4 million which we are using as a preliminary working number. Final design requirements, bid timing and so on may impact that. There are additional Water Fund reserves to assist if needed, depending on bid amount.

Manager Fulcher then noted that though it has existed across many areas of the Borough for months, many residents in the more vulnerable, mostly downhill areas

have been running their sump pumps for an extended period. Many of the lower sites are also getting the pumped out water from their neighbors. The ground water level has been at its highest extended period for years. As part of this situation where there is continuous or unusual pumping, and for some it is the first time ever, the Water Department extensively searches for water system line leaks, as well as check the owner's line for issues.

In continuing with other items, he noted that the street sweeping taking place the past few days did not get completed. They will be returning again tomorrow. He has two remaining local owner Easements to obtain related to the planned Brubaker/RR sewer collection line replacement project and one from an out of town owner, Frontier. Frontier is negotiating for some payment from the Authority for the Easement. Final requirements and conditions also have to be settled with Norfolk Southern. He hopes the Authority is able to place this out to bid by late Summer. They have some funds available but depending on bid results may need additional wastewater reserve funds to proceed. We still await the new belt conveyor for the new Bio-Solids machine. The company is also willing to provide a second processing drum for one dollar if needed to assist with proper operation. They are responsible for the interim machinery rental costs. Unfortunately, the replacement conveyor belt system had to be built. This method of handling the bio-solids was utilized because it was supposed to decrease operational running time, reduce employee oversight time and be more efficient. Because of awaiting the conveyor belt, it has taken about a month longer than planned.

Vice-President Burkhart stated as a reminder of the background, we are talking about the new processing machine needing to meet its processing performance as well as its conveying system being changed from that which was originally provided. The conveyor belt was to take six to eight weeks and should be arriving soon. If a second processing drum is needed, his concern is that if in the future there is a need for a plant expansion, this machine could not handle the additional volume. It seems the machine was not spec'd properly.

Council member Mohler stated that he would like to know what caused the issues.

Council requested Manager Fulcher to contact Department Supervisor Myers and determine who can talk with Council to answer some questions.

Garden Spot Village has begun its development work on the remaining small section in the Borough, Sycamore Springs West. A temporary above-ground sanitary sewer line will be in use while the excavation is done and blasting will

take place where heavy rock formations exist. The blasting contractor is offering pre-blasting inspections among those immediately adjoining residential units along Brimmer Avenue and Valley View Drive. Garden Spot has also been approved for a special financing program through the Lancaster County Industrial Development Authority for its planned dementia structure as well as Sycamore Springs West, which without any commitment on the local municipalities, does still require formal approval of this process for Garden Spot by them.

Vice-President Burkhart then stated he wants to note that as he has said in the past, whether a new pool is decided on or not at some future time, he thinks that if it is, it should be designed including a splash pool and slide type equipment. This could possibly attract more family memberships. Perhaps Council should move forward with looking at the initial financial support related to replacing the old pool with the initial process of a study instead of waiting until there is an actual problem to be addressed.

Member Keiser noted that the Lititz area was able to obtain some grant funding towards the cost of their new pool and those types of grants might be able to partially help replace the Borough's pool if that is what is decided.

Manager Fulcher reported that the current preliminary estimate to replace the pool in similar fashion is \$3 million; to add the additional splash pool things would add additional cost. He noted that the Lititz situation is different than the Borough's in that it also involved a regional recreation commission. Their pool also lasted 50 years.

Mayor Bender said that his experience with grants is first that they come with numerous conditions. Other things that factor in are that the immediate problem or need is clearly identified and a significant local portion of the funds needed to proceed with a project are obtained prior to the grant application. He also explained that the Board of the Community Memorial Park has a sub-committee currently studying potential future recreational uses of the pool area if Council should decide sometime in the future that a new pool is not feasible. The committee is working to prepare a study of currently popular, low maintenance and low liability recreation possibilities, should the situation occur in the near future. It can then be updated over the years as needed. With the Park Board volunteers' interest and dedication to the Park facilities, they may be the appropriate group to proceed with the initial steps of identifying Borough taxpayers' interest and support for a new pool when the situation occurs.

Mayor Bender was asked to attend the next Park Board meeting to request the Board's lead in an initial property owner survey. Manager Fulcher serves as the Borough's representative and coordinator with the Park Board and Vice-President Burkhart stated he may be able to attend.

Members Mohler and Keiser stated that in considering the Borough's budget situation and the use of much of the Capital Reserve for the police expansion project, it appears to be about time to plan to raise taxes for next year, when the budget is prepared in October.

In closing, Vice-President Burkhart noted that in considering the future situation of the Borough, there is little room left for development and the boundaries are not able to be enlarged by the Borough itself, so the tax base will remain more and more limited.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

May 7, 2019

Date Approved