

MINUTES  
New Holland Borough Authority  
October 15, 2024

The New Holland Borough Authority met in regular session on Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Chairman Robert P. Johnson, Secretary Allen B. Wessel and Treasurer Lino J. Vescovich. Members absent were Vice-Chairman Michael H. Kurtz and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ernie M. Orr. Others present were Authority Manager/Recording Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Borough Wastewater Department Supervisor Dan Rebuck, wastewater consulting engineer Dave Shirk of Buchart-Horn, Jesse Kern, Borough Water Department Supervisor and water consultants Jeff Bologna and Casey Kerschner of Becker Engineering.

Chairman Johnson opened the meeting, asking for action on the Minutes of the Authority's prior meeting.

Lino Vescovich made the motion that the Minutes of the Authority's meeting of July 18, 2024 be approved as distributed. This was seconded by Allen Wessel and passed.

Manager Fulcher explained that he requested wastewater consulting engineer Shirk to be present today to further discuss the initial step for reviewing the scope and elements of the possible change at the plant from the existing chlorine gas disinfectant system to among other things a more effective, safer and with less negative environmental consequences system.

Mr. Shirk stated that as noted by the Manager, the request was basically to provide a proposal for a preliminary Study for the potential change from the existing gas chlorination disinfecting system used at the wastewater plant to an Ultra-Violet system. He explained that one of the major differences in getting away from the current system to the UV system is a much larger requirement in the energy use for the new system. This preliminary Study will help identify these types of elements and needs, the existing equipment, review possible equipment footprint or building expansion needs, the need for possible new pipes and/or plumbing adjustments, cost estimates at this time, and so on.

Supervisor Rebuck noted that the next renewal period for the plant's NPDES Permit is March 2026. Historically, it has taken the state years to prepare a new Permit. When it does, he expects a new, lower discharge number for the residual

chlorine. We are about at our limit to be able to lower the readings further. The Study should also put us in a better position to possibly apply for grant assistance with the project at some time in the future.

Mr. Shirk continued, noting in response to a number of questions that the engineering proposal for this preliminary Study is presented as not to exceed \$30,000. If the full project is proceeded with, based on today's costs, the additional engineering could be about another \$150,000 or more. The total project cost could amount to be a million or more in cost. This is based on the technology and costs as projected at this time. The Study should be completed in about 90 days.

Manager Fulcher explained that he recommends this be done so the members have a better initial idea of the comprehensive picture involved, preparing for future discussions, should operating conditions remain the same as today.

After brief further discussions, Member Wessel made the motion that the Board approve the Ultra-Violet Disinfection System Study by Buchart-Horn as presented in a cost not to exceed \$30,000 without prior authorization. This was seconded by Lino Vescovich and passed.

Water consultant Bologna then provided an update on the progress of the Borough's planned water main replacement, including all service lines for Locust Street from Diller Avenue east to South Custer Avenue. This is an aged transite pipe. Along with the water line work, the Borough is including the widening of the cartway of Locust Street from Blossom Lane, east to South Custer Avenue, on the south side due to the utility poles being on the north side. The west half of Locust is 36 feet wide; the eastern half varies somewhat but is generally 29 feet plus various lengths from 8 to 10 inches. The design is to make this section 32 feet wide. This is to include new sidewalk and curb on both sides of the eastern half as part of the project. The milling and final overlay for the western half of Locust is to be included as an alternate, as this can be completed by the Borough the following year if necessary.

Chairman Johnson inquired if there has been good communication with the affected property owners as to the planned improvements.

Engineer Kerschner stated the Manager sent out an initial letter in the spring informing the residents of the upcoming project. Another is scheduled in the near future. He understands there has also been some direct conversations with some of

the owners. He is working on a clearer detailed map as to the elements involved with each property so the Manager has it to review with every property owner. Chairman Johnson inquired when the bid is expected to go out.

Consultant Bologna replied they hope they are able to go to bid before the end of November. The bid has to be open for at least 30 days. After opening they are reviewed and if acceptable a recommendation will be made to Council; which could occur for late December or its January meeting.

Member Vescovich inquired if all the local funding to receive the state grant has been identified.

Manager Fulcher reported that the grant amount for the project is \$746,508. The initially planned approach to go through the Authority for the project was changed because of the many different elements involved with the full project. The water reserve funds of the Authority remained obligated to match the project grant. The final cost owed to PennDOT for the East Main Street work will determine what Authority funds remain available to go towards the project; noting the Authority is owner of the facilities. The Borough will be providing additional monies.

Lino Vescovich inquired if the Authority's funds had yet been acted on for transfer to the Borough or payment to the contractor for the project.

Manager Fulcher responded they had not. He is waiting for bid opening to identify the actual cost of the project as proposed; hopefully it will be feasible as designed. The Borough will not need the funds until the project is awarded, and the Authority may hold its until needed.

Consultant Bologna reported that going back to a prior discussion topic of lead in water as occurred and became known nationally in Flint, Michigan around 2015, the Borough staff has been working on completing the first step requirement to check for this on both the main service lines as well as the individual private service lines.

Department Supervisor Kern noted that the required Inventory Report was completed in-house by staff and is due to the state today. Yesterday, the state's system crashed due to the apparent high reporting activity. None of these types of pipes were identified in either the Borough's supply lines nor on any property. There is always a possibility that there are still some somewhere but none we are aware of. As long as this is not a problem, the Borough's testing requirement is at

20 separate sites across town, assisted in the process by the property owner, every three years.

Lino Vescovich then made the motion that the bills be paid as prepared. This was seconded by Allen Wessel and passed. The bills were:

Becker Engineering	\$128.00
Wellhead Protection	Ck#1613
Ditchcreek Utility Services, Inc.	\$8,200.00
Locust St. WW locating, vac truck, camera	Ck#490

There being no further business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

January 21, 2025  
Date Approved