

MINUTES
New Holland Borough Authority
January 21, 2025

The New Holland Borough Authority met on Tuesday, January 21, 2025 at 8:30 a.m. in Borough Hall. Members present were: Chairman Robert P. Johnson, Vice-Chairman Michael H. Kurtz, Treasurer Lino J. Vescovich and Secretary Allen B. Wessel. Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ernie M. Orr was absent. Also present were Authority Manager/Recording Secretary J. Richard Fulcher, Borough Water Supervisor Jesse Kern, Borough Wastewater Department Supervisor Dan Rebuck and Borough/Authority water consultant Jeff Bologna of Becker Engineering.

Chairman Johnson noted that this is the Board's annual organizational meeting as the first order of business. He then asked Recording Secretary Fulcher to handle the call for the election of Chairman.

Mike Kurtz made the motion that the Authority's officers for 2025 be the same as 2024. These would be: Chairman Robert P. Johnson, Vice-Chairman Michael H. Kurtz, Treasurer Lino J. Vescovich, Secretary Allen B. Wessel and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Ernie M. Orr. The motion was seconded by Lino Vescovich and passed.

Mike Kurtz next made the motion that the regular days and time for the Authority's 2025 meetings be planned for the third Tuesdays of the months of April, July and October at 8:30 a.m. This was seconded by Lino Vescovich and passed.

Lino Vescovich made the motion that Bradford J. Harris be appointed as the Authority's Solicitor for 2025; and that Becker Engineering be recognized as the Authority's water engineer for 2025; and further that Buchart-Horn be recognized as the Authority's wastewater engineer for 2025. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed.

The meeting then went onto regular business.

Lino Vescovich made the motion that the Minutes of the Authority's meeting of October 15, 2024, be approved as presented. This was seconded by Mike Kurtz and passed.

Wastewater Supervisor Rebuck reported on a recent unfortunate operational treatment incident which involved an overflow from the Intermediate Clarifier due

to a number of factors. He believes it was the result of the extremely cold weather and the receipt of pre-treatment wastewater from Fleur de Lait that exceeded their Discharge Permit limits. This had a significant negative impact on the biological treatment process which in effect basically stopped the solids reduction and settlement process, causing what is classified as solids, to overflow the tank for a period; long enough for it to make it downstream to the stream at the discharge point. This was not raw waste but more a partially treated waste. It was spotted around 4 p.m. on the 13th. Fortunately, there was no related fish kill but the stream was disturbed. The proper procedures were immediately followed, notifying PA DEP and the PA Fish and Game Commission. They did their own investigations of the incident. DEP retains the right to fine the Borough for an illegal discharge under the Borough's Permit. Fleur de Lait pays quarterly fine amounts to the Borough when this occurs due to their exceeding Permit levels. They normally account for about one-third of the daily flow. This was the second quarter in a row but the first time the conditions caused such a reaction.

In response to a question from Chairman Johnson, Supervisor Rebeck stated that in the short term perhaps additional pretesting requirements and earlier warning information from Fleur de Lait would be helpful. They will be trying a new product available which is supposed to help improve the biological treatment process. The extreme cold temperatures are still a major impact with this. The Borough will be looking at Fleur de Lait's pretreatment Permit next year, particularly as it pertains to this element. As far as any further action by PA DEP, we have to wait and see.

Water consultant Bologna stated he is happy to report that the results of the bid opening for the Locust Street project on January 2nd were good news for the Borough. There were 12 bids submitted, ranging from the low bid of \$967,420 from Mason-Dixon Contractors of Willow Street, with the next lowest of \$1m, with six above \$1,350,000, to the high of \$1,626,000. The low bid contractor recently successfully completed a job overseen by his firm in Ephrata. His firm is preparing their recommendation to Council for its February meeting.

Member Kurtz inquired if consultant Bologna felt this project would be similar to the recent new well project which ran into a high number of unexpected issues requiring Change Orders.

Mr. Bologna replied that it should be a less involved project relative to both the new water line and related connections as well as the eastern section, south side street widening and restoration work; but even with the extensive preliminary

information, items could have been missed or something unexpected could be found during the work.

The members then briefly discussed the formal authorization of the water funds held by the Authority originally identified as the local funds needed for the project with the grant of \$746,508. In reserving \$200,000 for potential other obligations, the amount which can be made available at this time if needed is \$594,529. This will provide the required local match and allow for unexpected contingencies and still allow the Authority to retain an amount for its next project effort.

Authority Manager Fulcher noted it will only be drawn down as needed.

Member Wessel then made the motion that the Authority provide up to \$594,529 from its water reserve fund for use with the Locust Street water line project. This was seconded by Lino Vescovich and passed.

The members next discussed the existing Attachment Agreement with Verizon Wireless on the water tank near Garden Spot High School. The current Agreement expires in July 2028. The monthly rent amount the Authority will receive in July 2028 will be \$2,439.34. They have been on the site since 2003 and have inquired if an extension agreement could be worked out. The current rent paid monthly is \$2,232.35, with a three (3%) percent annual escalator clause. Verizon requested a five year extension from July 2028 with a two (2%) percent annual escalator clause. It was the consensus of the members that they wish to continue to work with Verizon as an attachment partner but feel the current 3 percent annual escalator would seem to be the preferred discussion at this time.

Lino Vescovich made the motion that the Manager be authorized to discuss this further with Verizon, indicating that the Authority's preference to continue the current annual increase of 3 percent. This was seconded by Allen Wessel and passed.

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

William G. Koch & Associates	\$4,375.00
2022 Authority Audit	Ck#1615

There being no other business or public comment, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

April 15, 2025
Date Approved