

**NORTH MIDDLETON AUTHORITY**

**Board Meeting**

June 21, 2018

Place: North Middleton Authority  
Administration Building  
240 Clearwater Drive  
Carlisle, PA 17013

Time: 3:00 PM

Present: Authority members present were: Jim Hurley, Bob Reisinger, Greg Lebo, and Stanley Dye. Also present were Hubert Gilroy, Solicitor; Pete Lusardi of GHD, Engineers; Jodie Fuller, Office Manager; and Barry Miller, Operator.

Visitors: None

**MINUTES:**

A motion was made by Mr. Reisinger to approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on May 17, 2018. Mr. Lebo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**VISITORS:**

No visitors were present.

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Gilroy had no report.

**ENGINEER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lusardi reviewed a written summary of GHD's activities on behalf of the Authority:

Marion Avenue Pump Station: All the major shop drawings for the General Contractor's long lead items (pumps, pre-cast concrete) have been approved. The contractor is working backwards from the expected delivery dates to schedule the start of earthwork and new piping. The GC expects to mobilize at the end of July. GHD has revised submittals in hand for the Electrical Contractor's long lead items (switchgear and genset), which GHD will be returning shortly. Based on current schedules, the electrical equipment should be

ready for delivery just about the time the GC has the building finished.

2017 Annual Report: The Report has been submitted to NMA for review.

Water Filter Units: The Neptune Microfloc Aquarius treatment units are currently offline for maintenance. Messrs. Lusardi, Koch and White have been discussing improvements to the filters, and Mr. Lusardi explained at the meeting that a lot of the media was being lost. He also outlined some other problems that were discovered and will need to be repaired. Two suppliers of package filter plant equipment (Roberts Filter and Westech) will make field visits next week to determine if there are more recently developed components that can be considered for upgrading the filters. DEP has promised very quick turnaround for review of any modifications. During the meeting, Mr. Reisinger asked about GHD doing a cost analysis for replacing the plant. Mr. Lusardi said he would do one, and will check out options in order to have recommendations for the next Board Meeting. There was extensive discussion of filter media and repairs during the meeting. NOTE: A much more detailed explanation of this issue was provided in Mr. Koch's written report, sent to Board Members prior to the evening's meeting and detailed below.

#### **MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Koch's written report was sent to Board Members prior to the evening's meeting. It was presented at the meeting by Jodie Fuller, as both Mr. Koch and Mr. White were absent from the meeting. The report included:

Water Plant Filter Media: This past February, we upgraded the filter bed turbidity meters. Almost immediately, the turbidity meters began clogging with filter bed media after each backwash cycle, which had not occurred with the old meters. The filter bed media found was mostly silica filter sand and garnet filtration media. This was a caution flag for us and we began to closely watch and monitor the situation. Also at this time, we cleaned out the wasting tank, which is the tank that receives both the backwash flow when cleaning the filters and also during the filter to waste cycle. We collected a total of 18 buckets of filter media from the tank, which reinforced our commitment to monitor.

On the Tuesday after Memorial Day, we decided it was time to check the depths of the filter media again and also check the wasting tank to determine how much more media was deposited, if any. We found three more five-gallon buckets of the garnet filter media. The check on the depth of the beds didn't reveal anything definitive, but we knew we were losing media and unsure why.

It is important to note that during this time and prior to it, the operations of the water plant were dead on, and at no time did the plant show any letdown in performance. Even though we did not have any performance issues, we knew that if we continued to lose the media, performance issues could occur and perhaps result in an unwanted situation.

All four certified operators were consulted and we reviewed the situation together and decided it was not worth the risk to continue to operate the plant. So, it was shut down the morning of May 29, 2018. We immediately notified Middlesex Authority of our situation, so the additional interconnect valves could be opened. We also contacted GHD, Engineers and discussed the situation with Pete Lusardi. We decided to stand down overnight and allow Pete to come in and review the findings.

Mr. Lusardi arrived and after a morning of observing, checking and backwashing the filter beds, we determined that most of the media loss was coming out of the filter beds during the filter to waste cycle, which immediately follows the backwash cycle. But we had no reason why it was occurring. We also were able to estimate that 6 to 8 inches of filter bed media was lost from each bed.

We notified PA DEP of our decision via email on June 1, 2018, to evacuate the filter media and try to determine the cause of the media losses. At the same time, we notified them we would be doing any additional maintenance to the metal tanks, as needed, such as welding or rust removal and recoating. We also asked them about permitting and what we would need, going forward.

Ironically, we already had a routine visit scheduled with PA DEP for June 5, 2018. It was the new sanitarian for the York office along with a seasoned DEP veteran who we have known and dealt with for over 15 years. After reviewing and discussing the situation with the DEP personnel, they agreed with our assessment and the need to evacuate the filters and determine the

cause. The rest of the routine inspection continued without any issues.

Basically, the water plant is being dismantled to allow for evacuation of the filter beds, cleaning of each tank section by pressure wash and we will begin sandblasting rusted metal spots, along with welding and recoating as needed. Middlesex Authority is aware and they are in good shape to meet the water demands while we go through this process of rebuilding. GHD is in the process of preparing the DEP permit, and we are also reviewing with different filter manufacturers to determine if any updates are available, which could assist and improve the overall operations of this filter plant moving forward.

Marion Avenue Pump Station: There has been no activity at the project site. We had the meeting with the contractors on June 6, 2018. They expect to be onsite in the later part of July to start.

Wertz Run Interceptor Upgrades: We have all of the temporary easements except at the Gardner property. The Gardner property is the one with stuff, lots of stuff, and fencing that will need to be removed from the permanent recorded right-of-way. We have marked the permanent right-of-way at the Gardner property and he is aware of the need to have his fence moved prior to construction. We anticipate this construction to begin in middle of July 2018.

Long Gap Water: No start date has been set yet and we won't start until we get a handle on the water plant rebuild. Mr. Lusardi asked at the meeting if there had been any feedback from the property owners regarding the letters that were sent to them last month. Ms. Fuller answered that she was not aware of any.

**SUPERVISORS' REPORT:**

Mr. Reisinger reported that the North Middleton Township Manager, Deb Ealer, had submitted her resignation and is planning to relocate to a different area.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Mr. Dye reported on bills that were paid in May and stated that operating costs were as follows:

for water,	\$	85,414.68
for sewer,		240,969.00

He made a motion to approve payment of the bills. Mr. Lebo seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Dye then made a motion to requisition from North Middleton Township:

for water,	\$	36,762.45
for sewer,		79,125.66

Mr. Reisinger seconded the motion and it also passed unanimously.

Mr. Dye then made a motion to approve:

**From the Orrstown Capital Account:**

<u>Req. #</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Amount</u>
O-331	Martson Law Offices	Legal-Wertz Run Interceptor	\$ 342.00
O-332	Northeastern Supply	WTP Repair	308.62
O-333	Darhower, Matthew	Temp Easement - Wertz Run Interceptor	300.00
O-334	Fastenal	WTP Repair	70.28
O-335	Lowes	WTP Repair	189.93
O-336	GHD, Inc.	Engineer-Annual Reports	736.00
O-337	GHD, Inc.	Engineer-Marion	2046.44

Mr. Lebo then seconded the motion, and it also passed unanimously.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Mr. Lebo commented on: some letters sent to customers concerning insufficient funds; a resident on Pheasant Drive North who had experienced a fire and originally was granted relief for six months has requested an extension on payments for an additional six months because the house is not done yet, they are still working on it. The customer has purchased the meter, but it is not yet installed. During the meeting, Mr.

Reisinger made a motion to extend the relief up to six months or until the meter is installed. Mr. Lebo seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Lebo also commented on receiving a surplus check from Benecon; confusion on doxo, a third-party internet website that takes payments and comes up when customers search for NMA online. After Ms. Fuller explained that doxo charges a fee to administrate the payment, which results in customers calling in to complain, Mr. Gilroy suggested educating the customers on what doxo is, and how they can make their payment directly to NMA with no fee. Ms. Fuller indicated she will put the information on our website and also put the information in with bills.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:**

No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Lebo  
Secretary

Mary Dutchess  
Recording Secretary