

**LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP AUTHORITY
RE-ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUSINESS MEETING**

Minutes of Township Authority Meeting held February 25, 2025

The annual re-organizational meeting of the Lower Paxton Township Authority was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Pro Tem Morgan M. Madden on the above date at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center, 425 Prince Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

The authority members present were David B. Blain, Chris Judd, David Ramsey, Allen McCormack, and Timothy Pramik. Also in attendance were Samuel Miller, Assistant Township Manager; William Weaver, Director of the Sewer Authority; James Wetzel, Manager of sewer Operations; Jason Hinz, HRG, Inc.; Melissa Smith, GHD; and Morgan M. Madden, Solicitor.

Announcement

Ms. Madden announced that the Authority Board members met in an executive session before the meeting to receive information from the Authority Liaison and legal advice from the Solicitor.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Blain led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Election of Chairman of the Board

Ms. Madden opened the nominations for the position of Chairman of the Authority Board. Mr. Judd nominated David B. Blain as Chairman of the Lower Paxton Township Authority Board. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Ms. Madden moved to close the nominations for Chairman. Mr. McCormack motioned to elect Mr. Blain as Chairman of the Lower Paxton Township Authority Board. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. Ms. Madden called for a voice vote, and a unanimous vote of approval followed.

Mr. Blain thanked the Authority Board members for their confidence in him as Chair of the Municipal Authority.

Election of Vice-Chairman, Election of Secretary, Election of Treasurer, Election of Assistant Secretary, Appointment of Solicitor, Appointment of Stormwater and Sewer Engineer

Mr. Blain made a sweeping nomination for Chris Judd as Vice Chairman of the Authority Board, Allen McCormack for Treasurer, Mr. Ramsey as the Secretary, Mr. Pramik as the Authority Board's Assistant Secretary, appoint Bapst Calland to the Authority Board's Solicitor position, appoint HRG, Inc., as the Stormwater Engineer, and appoint GHD, Inc. as the Authority Sanitary Sewer Engineer. Mr. Judd motioned to approve the nominations as presented, Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, which resulted in a unanimous vote of approval.

Establishment of Regular Meeting Schedule for Authority Board Meetings

Mr. Blain announced that the Authority meetings will be held quarterly on the fourth Tuesday of February, May, August, and November 2025 at the Lower Paxton Township Municipal Center beginning at 7:00 p.m. If a special meeting is needed, it will be advertised.

Mr. Judd motioned to establish the regular schedule for the Authority Board meetings on the fourth Tuesday of February, May, August, and November. Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, which resulted in a unanimous vote.

Business Meeting – General Authority

Public Comment

Dr. Charles Stuart, Chairman and CEO of the Harrisburg Area Police Athletic League (HAPAL) 100 Elmwood Dr., commented about a stormwater bill he received for 100 Elmwood Dr., a property recently acquired by HAPAL. He noted that the property had been abandoned for seven years. The HAPAL had two lien searches done on the property, and one cost \$3,000.00.

Dr. Stuart said the Township had the opportunity to put a lien on the property, and if there had been a lien at that time, they would have addressed it or had a choice to pass it on. The property was in bad shape, and they spent over \$100,000 improving it. He noted that HAPAL helped to eliminate the criminal element in that area. He said he has lived in the Township for 27 years and thought he was doing a good thing for the community and everything was done in good faith. He noted that the bill was issued to the Harrisburg Area Police Athletic League, and it's not fair for his organization to pay for someone else's bill. He said the Township took away their choice, and he isn't going to pay the bill.

Sam Miller explained that a title search would reveal a lien through the normal property transfer process, and the settlement agency would contact all relevant regional municipalities to settle current bills. If the title search had been conducted, the Township would have been able to respond at that time, as the bill would have been over \$10,000. After the Township became aware of the acquisition, the information was updated. Still, there was no transfer process, as with a sale. Dr. Stuart stated that the HAPAL Board hired Janette Pennington of Simple Home Settlements, LLC, who had contacted the Township twice for information, and he and his wife had to search for the property address.

Mr. Weaver noted that Raftelius was the stormwater engineer before Mr. Miller took over the billing process. Raftelius obtained the county records, and whoever owned the parcel of land would have received information from the billing software company.

Mr. Weaver noted that the owner doesn't need a house number because, under stormwater, it's a parcel with an impervious surface exceeding 340 square feet, as stated in the billing resolution. The property wasn't liened because the Township Authority had just taken over the stormwater management, and the debt collectors were only collecting for the sanitary sewer, the debt with stormwater fees was minimal at that time.

Mr. Miller noted that the staff reviewed the matter since it was brought before the Board of Supervisors and discovered that the majority of the impervious coverage and costs are associated with the parking lot, which is used by the pool. He suggested that Dr. Stuart have a discussion with the pool owners because if that area is excluded, the impervious area is significantly reduced.

Dr. Stuart stated that his property doesn't receive any services from the Township, and he plans to limit access to the property. Currently, the Township parks its trucks on his property, but since he isn't receiving services, he will not allow the Township to tear up the parking lot. He doesn't mind when the police come to the area because they help to eliminate the bad elements. Last year, the Township's trucks plowed snow at the end and middle of the parking lot, and it damaged the pavement. According to Patrice, owner of Penn Colonial Pool, the issue with repairs has been ongoing for years.

Chairman/Board Member Comments

There was none.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Judd motioned to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2024, Authority Board meeting. Mr. McCormack seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

Sanitary Sewer Fund- New Business

Public Meeting Results for the Wilshire Road Sewer Extension Project

Melissa Smith, GHD, summarized the public meeting held in January for the Wilshire Road Sewer Extension project. There are 12 homeowners whose homes are served by on-lot septic systems, and some have inquired about public sewer service because they are having issues with their septic system. At the Authority Board's request, they met with the 12 homeowners to explain the process and costs of extending the sanitary sewer system, including the quarterly sewer bills that would be incurred. She proposed applying for a PA Small Water Grant to help cover the cost of the front foot assessments. The grant would cover the costs of design and construction; however, there is no guarantee, as the application is due by April 30, 2025. A copy of the presentation, memo, and grant proposal was provided to the Board.

Discussion followed.

Approval of GHD Proposal to Prepare the COVID-ARPA PA Small Water & Sewer Grant Application for the Wilshire Sewer Extension Project

Mr. Pramik motioned to approve GHD's proposal to prepare the COVID-19 PA Small Water and Sewer Grant application for the Wilshire Sewer Extension Project. Mr. Judd seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

Dedication of Developer Installed Sewer

Melissa Smith, GHD, Inc., presented the following developer-installed sanitary sewer extensions for dedication to the Authority: Wilshire Estates Phase 2C, Nissley Run; Parkway Farms Phase 2; and Elizabeth Village Phase 1, noting some outstanding issues.

Mr. Weaver recommended that the Board conditionally accept the dedication of the four-developer-installed sanitary sewers.

Mr. McCormack motioned to approve the Dedication of Developer Installed Sewers.

Mr. Ramsey seconded the motion. Mr. Blain called for a voice vote, and there was a unanimous vote of approval.

Township Reports

BC-7A/B/C Sewer Replacement Contract/Construction Update

Mr. Weaver reported that the BC-7A/B/C Sewer Replacement project is 100% complete and has been a tremendous success; the meter data show 100% I/I removal. He noted that some stormwater projects remain. Still, this project was delayed due to the storm sewer work on Kenwood Avenue and Cloverdale Road. The staff met with the contractor today, and Mrs. Smith, GHD, and Mr. Hinz, HRG, are collaborating on the project. They requested that the contractor provide a final timeline for the extension request to complete the storm sewer. PPL has provided a date of April 1, 2025, to be in a location to move the electrical wires so the sewer can be installed; that was the delay in finishing the project. There is also concrete ramp restoration, 11 ADA ramps, curbing, and the final overlay paving for those areas. This project will proceed through May 2025, but the engineer and contractor must agree on the time extension request, and the contractor must submit it.

PC-3E/Clermont Sewer Replacement Construction Update

Mr. Weaver provided an update on the PC-3E/Clermont Sewer Replacement project, noting that Doli is the contractor and the project is 32% complete for the sewer. The contractor has a sizable punch list because they worked through the winter and were unable to complete the paving or yard work. Today, the staff met with representatives from Doli to discuss this project and its specifications. He noted that after they have installed 4,000 feet or more of pipe, they must fall back and start working on the restoration.

They have agreed to do the restoration and indicated that they have one mainline crew, four lateral crews, and a miscellaneous crew. This project is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2025.

PC-2E/F Trunkline Construction Update

Mr. Weaver reported that this project was awarded to PACT Construction and commenced in January. Unfortunately, next Wednesday, they have to shut down Blue Mountain Parkway for three days. A detour sign will be set up. They notified Triple Crown Corporation because they own 90% of Blue Meadow Farms. This project will proceed through April 2025.

Swatara Dryer Project – Status of Construction and Payments

Mr. Weaver reported that the staff met with representatives of Swatara Authority to discuss capital projects, and those meetings have intensified. They have established a budget committee for the Township Authority, and he and Mr. Miller are part of it. They meet quarterly to discuss their quarterly operation maintenance expenses and the progress of their capital program. The dryer is proceeding very well, and they expect it to be done by the end of May or early June 2025. The 2024 annual audit was satisfactory; the Authority received a refund, unfortunately, which will be used for the dryer.

CRW Rate Increase/IMA Update

Mr. Weaver reported that Capital Region Water has been implementing rate increases for the last two years. Still, the Township Authority has not agreed to pay because they have not provided an agreeable wholesale rate. They are making progress now that there's a full-time solicitor. The special counsel and Solicitor have been meeting and will meet again in March. Again, the Township Authority is requesting a wholesale rate study from their consultant, who will report back to the Board in May.

Township Crew Projects – Misc sewer repair/replacement work

Larry Stepansky, Engineer, provided an update on miscellaneous sewer repairs and replacement work performed by the Township's crew.

Mr. Stepansky noted that all the 2024 projects have been completed, and they'll begin on the 2025 projects. He presented a schedule to the board members. Mr. Weaver added that the work performed by Mr. Stepansky and the crew in January and February saved the Township over \$100,000.

Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the financial report. The report is favorable, and the Sewer Authority did very well on the Sewer side; revenues and expenses remain consistent.

Engineer's Report

Mellisa Smith, GHD, was present to answer questions.

Stormwater Fund- New Business

Township Reports

DEP MS4 Permit Renewal Applications – New Criteria and TMDL

Mr. Weaver reported that the Township received a new permit this week, as the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (PA DEP) has prepared a public notice and will publish notice of the draft permit in the Pennsylvania Bulletin soon. The Township's permit is an Individual Permit; therefore, this is an Individual Permit renewal, and the Township's permit is due to expire in July 2025. In anticipation of this expiration, the Township has 30 days to provide public comment, and the Solicitor and some environmental attorneys can offer assistance. This permit will extend the current permit, and due to new guidelines, the Township must provide public comment by March 19, 2025.

The PA DEP is proposing to discontinue the implementation of Pollutant Control Measures and two changes to eligibility requirements.

Mr. Weaver noted that the 2018 General Permit prohibits any MS4 that discharges waters impaired for nutrients or sediment from using PAG-13 when the MS4 is required to achieve a waste load allocation in a Total Maximum Daily Load. The PA DEP is proposing to update the causes of impairment to include turbidity, Total Suspended Solids, siltation, algae, eutrophication, nutrients, flow regime modification, and habitat alterations, in addition to the current causes of impairment from nutrients or sediment. This is a mouthful, and there is some concern about the new criteria. He said they plan to have an environmental attorney meet with PA DEP's attorney to gain a better understanding. The concern is the costs associated with the TMDL guidelines. With the new volume control being presented and the independent TMDL, there's double trouble. Still, the TMDL guidelines will not be released for some time, so he will report to the Authority Board on a quarterly basis. The Authority funds the program, and the Township holds the permit. The staff will work with the engineer and Solicitor to prepare written comments for the March 19 deadline.

Township Crew Storm Sewer Replacements 2025 Projects

Larry Stepansky, Engineer, reported under the Sewer agenda.

2025 Budget Projects, 14 total – Friendship Basins Retrofit Bid Opening 2/26/2025

Mr. Weaver reported that there are 14 small projects, which are very time-consuming for the staff and engineers. The staff will provide quarterly reports going forward.

The Friendship Basins Retrofit Bid opening is scheduled for Wednesday, February 26, 2025.

Quarterly Financial Report

Mr. Miller provided an overview of the financial report.

Engineer's Report

Jason Hinz, HRG, was present to answer questions.

Announcements

Mr. Blain announced that the next Authority meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Mr. Judd motioned to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Blain seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Shellie Smith,
Secretary

Approved by,

Secretary