

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
YORK CITY WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT SALE

March 2, 2022

6:00 p.m.

Chairman Harlacher called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Supervisors Present:

Steven Harlacher – Chairman
Dave Markel – Vice-Chairman
(Called In)
Ronald Ruman – Supervisor

Staff Present:

Kelly Kelch – Township Manager
Keith Whittaker – Finance Director
Andrew Herrold – Solicitor
Clif Laughman – Fire Chief
Rainer Niederoest - Engineer
Laura Mummert – Stenographer

OPENING REMARKS/BACKGROUND

Manager Kelch gave a brief background on the sale of the York City Wastewater Treatment Plant, and that five connecting municipalities would be affected by this sale. The municipalities created the York Area Regional Sewer Authority and sought the help of attorney Tom Wyatt to help the Authority through legal matters. After negotiations, a proposed agreement has been given to West Manchester Township. Manager Kelch announced that this agreement would be available on the Township website and available at the Township office.

PROPOSED SUMMARY OF THE AGREEMENT

Attorney Tom Wyatt addressed the room with the highlights of this proposal. He mentioned that the City of York would be returning a portion of the transportation funds owed to the Township. Attorney Wyatt asked if there were any further questions. None were asked.

REMARKS FROM PA AMERICAN WATER

Mr. Bernard Grundusky representing Pa American Water addressed the crowd and announced that four employees of Pa American were also present so that Township staff and residents could be introduced to them. Mr. Grundusky gave a brief overview and asked for any questions. None were asked.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING PROPOSED AGREEMENT

Chairman Harlacher thanked Manager Kelch for his hard work and dedication to this proposal. Staff has worked hard to reach an agreement. Chairman Harlacher also thanked former Supervisor Rosa Hickey for her work on this during her term. Supervisor Ruman thanked staff for working hard to get what he believes is truly the best result. Supervisor Ruman placed the blame on this to the PA Public Utility (PUC). Vice-Chairman Markel also commended staff for doing their best, and he would be open to entertain any questions residents may have. The Board also announced that if any resident had any questions after reading the proposed agreement, to please reach out to Township staff.

RATE ANALYSIS & TOWNSHIP COST SHARING PROGRAM

Finance Director Keith Whittaker shared with staff and residents the projected rate increase under a worse case scenario. He informed the room that this was only affecting the sewer component of the quarterly bill. Director Whittaker shared a cost sharing program that gave estimated increases for the next five years. This increase would take effect as soon as the York City Wastewater Plant sale was finalized. A copy of this proposed rate analysis is available on the Township website, and at the Township offices. Director Whittaker also announced he would be available to answer any questions.

QUESTIONS & COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Randy Zmolek, 1980 Baker Road, asked the Board if a tax increase would occur because of this agreement. Manager Kelch informed him that any subsequent tax increase that would occur would not be because of the York City Wastewater sale to PA American. Mr. Zmolek commended staff and the Board for their work on this project. He asked Mr. Grundusky from PA American Water if they had plans to update the plant when the sale is final. Mr. Grundusky said that PA American will make upgrades.

ADJOURNMENT

Manager Kelch thanked his colleagues from other municipalities for their hard work. Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Attest:

Secretary

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Supervisor