

**EPHRATA AREA JOINT AUTHORITY
MINUTES – JANUARY 13, 2022**

The Ephrata Area Joint Authority met on Thursday, January 13, 2022, at 7:00 PM, in the Council Chambers of Borough Hall, 124 S. State Street, Ephrata, PA.

In attendance were Thomas Reinhold, Chairman; Gary Landis, Vice Chairman; Greg Schmuck, Assistant Treasurer/Assistant Secretary; as well as Members Timothy Barr and Clark Stauffer. Absent was Steve Sawyer, Treasurer.

Also in attendance were Scott Hughes, Gannett Fleming; Attorney Aaron Zeamer, Russell, Krafft & Gruber, LLP; D. Robert Thompson, Secretary, Michael McKenna; Debra Bartow, Assistant Borough Manager and Charlie Nigrelli, Utilities Manager.

Call to Order

Chairman Reinhold called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Adoption of Agenda

Mr. McKenna provided confirmation of the following:

1. The meeting agenda was posted on the Borough's website and at Borough Hall no later than 24 hours in advance of the time of the meeting.
2. The meeting agenda included a listing of each matter of business that will be or may be the subject of deliberation or official action at the meeting.
3. There were no changes made to the meeting agenda after it was posted.
4. The meeting agenda was made available to individuals in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Schmuck seconded to approve the meeting agenda as publicly posted on the Borough's website, meeting location as well as distributed to meeting attendees. Motion carried unanimously.

Reorganization

Mr. McKenna presided over this portion of the meeting and opened nominations for the Office of Chairman. Mr. Stauffer nominated Thomas Reinhold. Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Vice Chairman. Mr. Reinhold nominated Gary Landis. Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Treasurer. Mr. Reinhold nominated Steve Sawyer. Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Assistant Treasurer. Mr. Stauffer nominated Greg Schmuck. Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Secretary. Mr. Reinhold nominated Michael McKenna. Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Nominations were opened for the Office of Assistant Secretary. Mr. Reinhold nominated Debra Bartow.

Mr. McKenna called for additional nominations. With no additional nominations forthcoming, Mr. McKenna declared nominations closed.

Mr. McKenna presented the slate of candidates which included Thomas Reinhold for Chairman; Gary Landis for Vice Chairman; Steve Sawyer for Treasurer; Greg Schmuck for Assistant Treasurer; Michael McKenna for Secretary; and Debra Bartow for Assistant Secretary. The candidates were unanimously elected as presented.

Chairman Reinhold moved and Mr. Stauffer seconded to accept the appointment of Russell, Krafft and Gruber, LLP, as Solicitor for the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Schmuck seconded to accept the appointment of Gannett Fleming as Engineer for the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Schmuck seconded to accept the appointment of Stephanie Fasnacht as Right-to-Know Officer for the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes – December 9, 2021

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the December 9, 2021, Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

With no visitors in attendance wishing to address the Board, Chairman Reinhold moved onto the discussion of the Financial Reports and Payment of Bills.

Financial Reports

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the financial reports. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

Mr. Stauffer moved and Mr. Schmuck seconded to ratify the payment of the bills. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Action Items

a. PA Department of Human Services: Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

Mr. Barr moved and Mr. Stauffer seconded to ratify the authorization of the Vendor Agreement for participation in the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) between the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services and the Authority. Motion carried unanimously.

b. T-Mobile: Request for Consent to Update Equipment on the Cindia Lane Water Tank (Lincoln Tank)

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Schmuck seconded to approve T-Mobile's request to update the equipment to support its wireless telecommunications network at the site address of 50 Cindia Lane (Lincoln Tank), Ephrata.

After a brief discussion, the request was amended for approval of the request subject to Staff confirming there is not an expansion of the antennas. Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to approve the amended motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stauffer moved and Mr. Landis seconded to approve T-Mobile's request to update the equipment to support its wireless telecommunications network at the site address of 50 Cindia Lane (Lincoln Tank), Ephrata, subject to Staff confirming there is not an expansion of the antennas. Motion carried unanimously.

Engineering Update

Mr. Nigrelli advised he received notice from the Susquehanna River Basin Commission advising they will be conducting a site inspection on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Mr. Willwerth advised operations are running very smoothly. Mr. Willwerth stated that Scott Mohn, Chief Water Operator, commented that "... these last two months are probably the best two months he could remember." Mr. Willwerth further stated, "... everything is looking good and running very well."

Miscellaneous

Mr. Thompson advised that he and Mr. McKenna had a conversation with Mr. Landis earlier on this date regarding Clay Township's decision regarding YWAM Ministries - Youth With A Mission concerning their request for water service. Mr. Thompson advised Mr. Landis informed them that the Township took their position as it relates to a land development plan and required zoning. Mr. Thompson further advised the matter at hand deals with temporary water versus permanent water to the site. Mr. Thompson advised Staff's advice was to have Atty. Zeamer make contact with the Township's Solicitor, Jennifer Mejia, to discuss the Township's position in more detail; after which, Atty. Zeamer will be able to provide guidance as to what obligation or authority they have.

Mr. Stauffer advised he had a conversation with Mr. Cover earlier on this date who advised he wished to be added to the agenda to discuss his ongoing project; in which, Mr. Thompson advised of a new Sunshine Law requirement advising that items not included on the advertised meeting agenda are not able to be deliberated by the Board. Mr. Thompson further advised the Chairman can state to the requestor, "... we'll receive your comments, but we won't be able to discuss it until next month."

Mr. Thompson, in referencing his upcoming retirement, stated, "... it's been a pleasure serving the Board ... this is really a good group to work with and I'm going to miss it."

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is Thursday, February 10, 2022.

Adjournment

Mr. Landis moved and Mr. Barr seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael R. McKenna, MPA
Secretary

SJF