Maidencreek Township Authority
June 18, 2020

Attending Board Members Via Teleconference: Karl Bolognese, Jerry Hartman, Jack May, Jim Nothwehr, Dan Novakovich

Also Attending: Patrick Donovan and Debbie Kline of the Maidencreek Township Authority. Also Attending Via Teleconference: Greg Unger and Ty Leinneweber of SDE, Daniel Becker of Kozloff Stoudt

Jack May called the June 18, 2020 meeting of the Maidencreek Township Authority (MTA) to order at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference and asked everyone to rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Dan Novakovich to waive the reading of the minutes and approve the May 21, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jim Nothwehr and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Route 73 Water Line Replacement

Ty Leinneweber of SDE reported that the original bid for the Route 73 Water Line Replacement Project included paving that matches the existing pavement. The PennDot spec requires an additional 3.5" of paving. The cost for the additional paving is $52,111.00 for an increase of approximately 9%. This results in an updated total project cost of $619,800.00. The new project cost is still less than the amount budgeted for the project. Dan Novakovich requested that in the future spec requirements be discussed and addressed ahead of time to avoid changes after the bid process. Ty reported a pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Monday 6/22/20. At that time, the Notice to Award and Notice to Proceed will be issued.

A motion was made by Jim Nothwehr to accept PennDot Change Order 1 in the amount of $52,111.00 for the additional cost to meet the paving specifications required by PennDot after bids were received. The motion was seconded by Karl Bolognese and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

700 E. Wesner Connection

Mr. Donovan reported last month he had been contacted by the current owner, Kenneth Knarr, of 700 E. Wesner Road regarding connecting to public water. Mr. Knarr stated he was told by the previous owner when he purchased the home that the service was promised to him for consideration of the multiple easements on his property. Mr. Becker secured the easement for this property from the Berks County Court House and no consideration for service was found in the easement. At this time, there is no documentation outlining what the parties previously agreed to. Mr. Donovan stated yesterday he and the Township tried to locate a service at the property and determined there is no existing service. The owner was notified of the findings, and he still wishes to connect to public water. The MTA will be able to keep costs down by working with the Township to provide the service to the property. The Board discussed the tapping fees, and the decision was made that the MTA and the owner will share the costs equally. The owner will be responsible for $950.00.

A motion was made by Jim Nothwehr to authorize the MTA to provide water service to the end of the right-of-way for the property located at 700 E. Wesner Road with the property owner paying half the tapping fee for a total of $950.00. The motion was seconded by Karl Bolognese and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

COVID 19/Accounts Receivable Status

Mr. Donovan provided the Board with an email prior to the board meeting along with a report on the accounts receivable as of 6/16/2020. This report clearly indicates the COVID-19 pandemic is having a marked impact on the outstanding past due account balances. Mr. Donovan suggested the following plan as the COVID-19 National Emergency continues. After much discussion, the Board is in agreement with the plan as outlined.

1. Moratorium on shutoffs shall remain in effect.
2. Reinstate late charges and fees effective **September 2, 2020** on ***current*** balances only. Notice of reinstating late fees shall be posted on the Township website as soon as approved by the Board and a notice will also be printed on the bill to be mailed on **July 30, 2020**.
3. MTA will continue to offer payment assistance plans to those in need as is our standard normal practice.
4. No interest will be charged for late payment for the April 1 billing cycle.

A motion was made by Dan Novakovich for authorization to proceed with the plan as outlined by Mr. Donovan in the email dated June 16, 2020. The motion was seconded by Jim Nothwehr and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

Fire Company Pool Filling

Mr. Donovan provided the Board with an email prior to the board meeting outlining a plan to allow the Fire Company to use the MTA fire hydrants for filling pools and for bulk water for other uses. There was discussion regarding compensation for the water that is used. The Fire Company will provide the Authority with a check in the amount of $223 for every 100,000 gallons used, or the Fire Company will agree to paint 20 hydrants for every 100,000 gallons. The Board agreed to accept payment at the discretion of the Authority Manager. The fire chief will provide the MTA with a list of addresses with an estimated amount of water used. This agreement will remain in effect unless a problem arises in the future.

A motion was made by Dan Novakovich to authorize the Blandon Fire Company use of the MTA fire hydrants for the sale or exchange of water at the discretion of the MTA manager. The motion was seconded by Jim Nothwehr and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

LEAK REDUCTION REQUESTS

Austin Kerper, 402 Colonial Court, Blandon

A motion was made by Dan Novakovich to authorize a one-time leak reduction per MTA policy for Austin Kerper, 402 Colonial Court. The motion was seconded by Jerry Hartman and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

UPDATES

PMRS Pension Plan Review

Mr. Donovan reported he had a one-hour conference call with PMRS, and they provided answers to his outstanding questions. He will compile the information he received along with his comments and send to Mr. Becker for his review of the agreement.

PMAA Performance Assessment

No new update at this time. When the Assessment is returned to Mr. Donovan, he will share the results with the Board.

Route 222 Project

Mr. Becker provided an update regarding the Rt 222/Coca-Cola easement. He stated PennDot has decided to move the placement of the Dynamic Message Sign (DMS). Because of this change, the MTA will no longer have to move their lines. PennDot has now issued a new reimbursement agreement. Mr. Becker received it yesterday and reviewed briefly thus far. Of note, PennDot is not offering to reimburse the MTA for all the time spent to date on this project. Karen Pollock of SDE has contacted Dave Radar of PennDot and is awaiting his response regarding this new issue.

Fire Hydrants

Mr. Donovan stated 95 of the 232 hydrants have been painted to date.

Well #3 Adjacent Property

Mr. Donovan reported the property adjacent to well #3 has been cleaned up very nicely by the Township. Grass was planted this week. Mr. Donovan is hopeful the Board will be pleased with how nice the property looks.

Operator Trainee

Mr. Donovan reported Keith Shuman will begin training on Friday July 10, 2020. Mr. Donovan communicated to the Board that two of the operators have expressed concerns about the decision to hire a part-time weekend operator.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Becker had nothing further to add.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

SDE submitted a written report. Mr. Unger had nothing further to add.

AUTHORITY REPORT

Mr. Donovan had nothing further to add.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

A motion was made by Jim Nothwehr to accept the Treasurer's Report and authorize the following payments: Routine/Regular Bill List - $40,992.08, Construction in Progress -

$38,653.50, Reimbursable Expenses Paid by Developer - $620.21, Payroll Account Transfer from Operator Acct - $80,000.00, Validate Checks Signed Between Meetings - $241.50, Special Checks Requiring Special Handling - $19,670.51, Additional Checks after Board Book Delivery - $12,385.64. Jerry Hartman seconded the motion and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

ENGINEER'S/SOLICITOR'S REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES:

A motion was made by Jerry Hartman to approve SDE Professional Staff Reimbursable Expenses as follows: SDE invoice #100527 in the amount of $620.21. The motion was seconded by Dan Novakovich and hearing no questions on the motion, it passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT – None.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Kline
Debbie Kline
Recording Secretary

Minutes are subject to change prior to approval of the Maidencreek Township Authority.

cc: Maidencreek Township Authority Board
Patrick Donovan, Maidencreek Township Authority General Manager
Greg Unger, Systems Design Engineering, Inc., MTA Engineer
Daniel Becker, Kozloff Stoudt, MTA Solicitor
Maidencreek Township Authority Plant Operators
Kosmerl & Company
Maidencreek Township Board of Supervisors
Maidencreek Township Planning Commission
Eugene Orlando, Esq., Orlando Law Firm, Solicitor
Diane Hollenbach, Maidencreek Township Manager
Ontelaunee Township