

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HILLTOWN TOWNSHIP  
WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY OF FEBRUARY 10, 2016**

The February 10, 2016 meeting of the Hilltown Township Water and Sewer Authority was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Vice-Chairman Melvin Wright. Members in attendance included Frank Beck, John Rankin and Bruce Knipe. Staff members in attendance included Gary Weaver of Castle Valley Engineering, the Authority's Engineer; Jack D. Wuerstle, Esquire, the Authority Solicitor; and James C. Groff, the Authority Manager.

Following the formal Roll Call and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Vice-Chairman Wright asked for action on the minutes from the January meeting. Mr. Beck made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Knipe seconded. The motion carried 4-0. There was no public comment, no confirmed appointments, and no visitors.

Vice-Chairman Wright then called upon the Authority Manager for the monthly Staff Report. As to the water system, Wells #1 and #2 experienced normal operations for the month with a combined pumping of 9.2 million gallons (equating to 57% of capacity allocated by the Delaware River Basin Commission). Water meter replacements continued without incident. The record snowfall earlier in the month resulted in some resident inquiries about hydrant access. The Authority Manager suggested that an effort be made to dig out those hydrants on cul-de-sacs during heavy snowfalls, as those are the hydrants that tend to get buried by snowplows. The Authority Manager also discussed the purchase of a new water-metering device that can near-instantaneously read water usage at a residence for the past 33 days. The device is commonly called a "hockey puck", and costs only \$300.00. The hockey puck has already been used to solve one water usage issue at a residence by indentifying a usage pattern leading back to a faulty water softener.

As to the sewer system, normal operations continued at both treatment plants. There was a PaDEP inspection at the Highland Park Plant, with one minor issue discovered (faulty UV light) and corrected. The plant also experienced a duct heater malfunction (also corrected), which was unrelated to the PaDEP inspection. A PaDEP inspection of the Berry Brow Plant found no issues. The Authority Manager also reported that Bob Wassen of PRA is the new PWTA Chairman.

With respect to capital projects, the temporary generator continues to run the arsenic removal system for Well #5. Otherwise, the Authority is still waiting on PaDEP to schedule a walkthrough. As to the Route 113 water extension, connection letters to those residents eligible to connect have been hand-delivered, the water line has been flushed, and the bac-t test completed and passed.

As to Well #3, pump and lab testing has been completed. Contrary to certain rumors permeating throughout the Township, the testing did not reveal any contamination issues in terms of VOCs or other such pollutants. However, what the testing did reveal was, at high levels of production, increased levels of arsenic result. These increased arsenic levels are problematic in that for Well #3 to prove useful for present needs, the Authority would need significant production from this well. A review of probable treatment costs for arsenic removal indicate that bringing Well #3 into full production right now may not be the most cost-effective option for the Authority. Consequently, the Authority Manager recommended that alternatives be explored for bringing water to this area of the service territory. The Board agreed and authorized Staff to explore such options.

With respect to current projects, Ashland Meadows is completed with all homes connected. The Estates at Hilltown/Oskanian still have 23 homes connected with three (3) homes under construction. The Preserves now has 22 homes connected and Hilltown Walk now has 40 homes connected. The Hallmark project at 914 Hilltown Pike has two (2) of its six (6) homes connected.

As to the Regency at Hilltown, the water and sewer main within the subdivision is completed and the pump station will be completed next week. The force-main is being pressure tested and some leaking issues have been reported. Pump and haul will be utilized until all leaks are addressed and enough homes are connected to warrant use of the force-main.

With respect to proposed projects, indications suggest that Pulte will be purchasing the Envision project. There was nothing new to report on the Hallmark/Bethel College Property project. The development agreement for Hawkeye's is still not back.

No Executive Session was required. Vice-Chairman Wright then called upon Treasurer Rankin for the monthly Treasurer's Report and review of monthly bills. Following Mr. Rankin's presentation, Mr. Knipe made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of bills, which was seconded by Mr. Beck. The motion carried by a 4-0 vote. There were no escrow releases or Old Business to address.

Under New Business, the Authority Manager advised that the 2015 Consumer Confidence Report is being prepared. Test results for Authority water remain superlative. However, given the much-publicized situation in Flint, Michigan, Authority Staff thought is prudent to again examine the potential for lead-related issues in Hilltown. The Authority water system is lead-free, as verified by testing, but an examination of the internal plumbing of those homes (and particularly older homes) wishing to connect to the Authority's system was thought to be a reasonable approach to safeguard the integrity of the Authority's water. The Board agreed, and instructed the Authority Manager to oversee such a program going forward.

With nothing further before the Board, Mr. Beck made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 P.M., which was second by Mr. Knipe. The motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

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Frank Beck