

Sykesville Area Water and Sewer Authority Special Meeting 1/15/24

Chairman Rick Fike called a special meeting of the Sykesville Area Water and Sewer to order at 6:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Those answering roll call were Rick Fike (Chairman), John Sedor (Vice Chairman), Gabriel "Butch" Sweka, and Don Zimmerman. Absent was Dave Reiter.

Visitors present. Michael Gamble, Travis Long (JHA Companies), and Pete Erickson (6:45).

A motion to approve minutes for July 17, 2023, was made by Don Zimmerman and seconded by Butch Sweka. Motion carried.

Rick Fike asked for an update on smoke testing (discussed last Authority meeting). Foreman Williams stated that he has tested from Paradise Road to Fox's, and he should finish up in the Spring.

John Sedor requested if Travis Long could perform some kind of cost study for Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy. Mr. Sedor wants to know how much it costs the Authority to treat these other municipalities to determine if their rates need to be adjusted. He informed rates were set for Sandy Township in 2002, Winslow Township in 2010, and Troutville Borough in 2011. Mr. Long stated that JHA Companies could perform an Act 57 study which would make the proper rate calculations; this study will legally determine what can and cannot be charged for the rates.

John Sedor raised questions to Mr. Long if he thought it was a good idea for Michael Gamble to get certified and obtain a sewer license. Mr. Long informed that he never discourages anyone in getting more licenses and knowledge.

John Sedor mentioned that the Authority be notified by Council before spending money on big projects such as road projects that have to do with the water/sewer lines. The Authority and Mr. Long agreed that notification of big projects is necessary and that a member of the Authority should be present at the Council meeting (s) that any said project is discussed.

The Authority opened discussion regarding adding \$1.00 to the water bills for maintenance of the storm drainage. Engineer Travis Long strongly recommended

this fee because it will help offset the cost in repairing/maintaining the storm drainage systems. A roll call vote was made to accept the proposed resolution: John Sedor, yes; Don Zimmerman, yes; Butch Sweka, yes; Rick Fike. Motion carried for the Authority to agree to add \$1.00 to the water bills for maintenance of storm water.

John Sedor stated that he was told the aeration for the water at the wastewater plant should be always running because if not the septic will rise which would cause a sewer smell. Mr. Long stated that it's not entirely true, aeration works solely to keep the bugs alive so that they can properly digest all the organic solids that come in. The air on/off helps the biological aspects and energy consumption. Mr. Long informed that when it is warmer there is more algae/biological activity which more oxygen would be needed, however, when it is colder weather less oxygen is needed as things are reacting slower.

Rick Fike asked if it was possible to reduce the testing fees for water since Sykesville buys water from the City of DuBois. Travis Long informed that Sykesville still must do testing on the water because of DEP regulations and mandates.

The Authority requested that the Borough Crew perform some maintenance on the meter pit on Highland (paint, etc.) this spring/summer.

A profit and loss (July-December 2023) was presented to the Authority for the Water, Sewer, Sludge Removal, Capital Improvement, Security Deposit, and PennVest accounts. Rick Fike questioned the Sewer Fund amount that was left at the end of December. Secretary Neale stated that money was moved into the Sludge Removal Fund (every year) and some equipment purchases were made.

Sykesville, Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy's daily water and sewer flows (July-December) were presented to the Authority for their review. Along with the flows, also presented were Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy's monthly water and sewer bills (July-December).

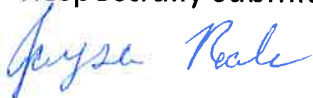
A motion was made by Butch Sweka and seconded by John Sedor to keep all water and sewer rates (residential, Winslow, Troutville, and Sandy) the same until the next scheduled meeting or when Travis Long completes the Act 57 study in which a special meeting will be scheduled.

Pete Erickson asked if there were any updates on getting separate lines/meters for the loop of houses (discussed a few Council meetings ago) on Hepburn Road (he resides in one). Travis Long informed him that there are no projects available at this time (Mr. Long is still committed to researching grants) and stated that Sandy Township would need to agree if this were to move forward. Mr. Erickson also asked if the line were to break, who would be responsible for repairing it. Mr. Long stated that because it is a private line, the homeowner would be responsible.

A motion was made by John Sedor and seconded by Don Zimmerman to schedule the next Authority Meeting on Monday, July 15, 2024, at 6 PM. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Don Zimmerman and seconded by Butch Sweka to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 PM. The motion was carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaysa Neale

Borough Secretary

