

MINUTES OF SEVEN VALLEYS BOROUGH
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 3, 2020

Council President Zachary W. Stiles called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with the Salute to the Flag. Those in attendance in addition to Mr. Stiles were Council members Deborah J. Ferree, Gregory W. Kinard, Gary L. Landis and John J. Neal; Mayor Douglas J. Wagner, Secretary Cheryl D. Bahn and Solicitor D. Michael Craley. Rebecca A. Kinard, and William H. Stiles, II were absent from the meeting. The meeting was held at the Seven Valleys Fire Company, 35 Main St, in Seven Valleys Borough.

Motion by G. Kinard/Neal to approve the January 6, 2020 meeting minutes as circulated. MCU

Sewer Authority Presentation

Mr. Stanley Escher, Chairman of the York County Springfield Township Sewer Authority (YCSTSA) and Mr. Walter Reamer, Treasurer, YCSTSA were present to talk about a Sewer Rate Increase for customers of the Borough. A summary of the presentation follows.

The Financial Reports and audits looked at the Total Expenses and Receipts for the Sewer as a whole rather than focus on each member municipality separately.

Each Municipality is in a separate district whose rate is determined by a variety of circumstances; for example, the cost is less for a sewer serviced by gravity than by pump stations. The number of customers sharing in the cost of the infrastructure is also a consideration. There are four rate districts.

Over the past years, Seven Valleys has been operating under an average annual deficit close to \$35,000.00. At this point the increase of \$36.00 per quarter starting with the 2nd quarter billing will help stop the annual deficit going forward but not address the deficit from the beginning of the Authority through 2018. There has been only one rate increase since the beginning of the Sewer System through 2018. Basically, the Construction costs financed through the debt service will be paid off in 2026 but instead of lowering the rate, keeping the rate the same or greater beyond 2026 would replenish the Authority's Operating expenses which are carrying the loss.

While the Borough receives minutes from the YCSTSA each month along with the Financial Report and results of the annual audit, the Borough has no oversight over the Authority. Rates are set by the YCSTSA – the Borough has no veto or no authority over rates charged by the Authority. The Authority is not an agency of the Borough or the Township but a separate legal entity. Also, not all Borough residents are sewer customers.

Mr. Craley, Solicitor further explained that what the Authority can and cannot do is governed by the Municipalities Authorities Act. Their rates need to be fair and reasonable. The rate in a district can be increased if they can justify an increase is necessary going forward. However, when we get to 2026, the Authority will be debt free and would need to justify if a rate hike continues to be needed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ronda Schrader, 85 Main St, asked if York Water bought the Jacobus System, might they consider buying the Seven Valleys System. Mr. Escher responded that Jacobus' share of the Sewer System was more financially stable than Seven Valleys share. Since the York Water Company is a for profit company, Seven Valleys might not look profitable for them.
2. Sharon Dillon, 52 Church St, brought up that a single person is paying the same amount as a neighbor with several people in the household. Mr. Escher explained that if the bill was determined by the use of water, it would be costly to generate a different invoice for each person each month, as well as the legality of meters and installations.
3. Jennifer Dubois, 136 Church St, questioned when the rate increase would start. The rate increase will start with the billing for the 2nd quarter. She also was curious why more information was not available online with a Sewer Authority website.
4. Meg Fullerton, 1 Cherry St, asked if the rate increase was per Equivalent Dwelling (EDU) as she has multiple edus for the Tavern. Yes, the increase is for each edu assigned to the property.
5. Larry Garland, 9 Maple S, asked for a more in-depth explanation of why the information was not known earlier since an audit is done each year. Financial Reports looked at the Total Expenses and Receipts for the Sewer as a whole rather than focus on each member municipality separately.
6. Lyle Ballou, 85 Main St, questioned where the excess 500,000 gallons per one or two-inch rain event is entering the system. Measures since as smoke testing have been done and flow testing done, but a definite answer has not been found. Any opening in what is supposed to be a closed system allows water and debris to enter the system.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

No written Report.

SOLICITOR'S PORTION OF THE MEETING

All items will be address later in the agenda.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. LED Solar Power Radar Speed Signs for Church & Main Streets – Have been ordered. No delivery date at this time.
2. Project to replace older stop & speed limit signs in the Borough as needed for greater reflectivity. In planning stage.
3. Scrape South St in spring. H & H will do the work.
4. Matthew Collis Subdivision Plan – 114 South Street is not ready to come before Council. Planning Meeting Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 at the Fire Hall

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Motion** by Ferree/G. Kinard to authorize the Secretary to write a letter of acknowledgement regarding the Rail Trail 10-Miler race to benefit The Arc of York County to be held on August 22, 2020. MCU.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - Period Ending 1/31/2020

General Fund	
PLGIT	\$ 9,161.60
PLGIT PRIME	\$ 169,345.75
Peoples Bank	\$ 4,796.95
	\$ 183,304.30

State Liquid Fuels Fund	
PLGIT	\$ 712.89
PLGIT PRIME	\$ 3,033.58
	\$ 3,746.47

Motion made by Ferree/Neal to approve, accept and file statement for audit. Also pay monthly payment to SWIF, York Water &, Met Ed as invoiced as well as authorize Secretary/Treasurer to pay regular bills. MCU

CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS/AROUND THE TABLE

1. Completed State Ethics reports are to be filed with the Borough Secretary by May 1, 2020.
2. A Survey of Senior Housing in Seven Valleys by the York County Planning Commission was circulated.
3. One Building permit at 109 Main St. Zoning Codes Report was reviewed. Council asked for Mr. McLucas to have a report of the progress of each case he is working on in the Borough and a final determination report. Also, to check the accumulation 30 – 40 trash bags at 72 Main St. Mr. McLucas brought up that parking is prohibited only on the south side of Maple Street.
4. Lien Collection Report - 7 outstanding liens.
5. The Sewer Authority report was reviewed by Council.
6. The new parking lines need to be replaced where Columbia Gas dis work on Church St. Zac will call Columbia Gas to repaint the lines.
7. Secretary Bahn & Mayor Wagner will attend the YCBA Meeting on March 26, 2020. The meeting will focus on the Census and will be held at Dallastown Fire Hall.
8. Dave Meiler, EMC, is working on an update of the Emergency Operation Plan.

With no further business to come before council, President Zachary W. Stiles adjourned the meeting at 9:08 pm. Next Borough Council Meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Seven Valleys Fire Hall, 35 Main Street, and Seven Valleys.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl D. Bahn, Secretary