

**BETHEL TOWNSHIP
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS and MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
April 18, 2019**

The Bethel Township Board of Supervisors was called to order by Chairman Jake Meyer at 3:05 pm; Harold Gruber, Chairman of the Bethel Township Municipal Authority convened the meeting at 3:05 pm, p.m. in the Bethel Township Meeting Room, Bethel PA.

Attending the meeting were Board of Supervisors members Jake Meyer, Mike Graby and Lee Groff. Municipal Authority members present were Harold Gruber, David Younker, Kevin Stupp, and Robert Lingle. Also, in attendance were Solicitors Eugene Orlando (Twp) Liz Magovern (MA), Engineer Jim McCarthy (MA), Erin Kreitzer MA Business Manager and Township Secretary Treasurer, Jayne Seifrit.

Public Comment

Kevin Stupp shared an overview of the last 10 – 11 years. He stated in 2008 -09 the treatment plants were built and ready for use. Documents were sent to residents in the service area and it outlined the process and tapping fee payment options. Over time requests were given to the Township to amend the connection ordinance, and completed. The Municipal Authority had not been solvent and requested from their debtors' interest only for additional time and received an additional loan (interest free) from Berks County Industrial Development Authority with a payback over time as new users got online. There were times when DEP, Penn Vest and Penn Works questioned the fee amounts as they thought they were too low to cover debts. The Authority held the line on fees until it just was no longer feasible. Fees were then raised to what they are currently.

It was also pointed out the extension of the Act 537 for Frystown was done in 2009 and paid for by a developer. A different developer put in the line (2017-18) with it being dedicated to the Authority upon completion, still pending. Once all is finalized there will be a reimbursement to the developer for the line that will be worked out and be part of an agreement.

In 2015 a developer put in the line along Old Route 22 to hook an industrial commercial site to the Bethel Treatment plant. It was then dedicated to the Municipal Authority. It was stated it was never part of the Act 537 plan for Bethel. Developers wanting to hook up went through DEP documentation. It was stated at some point the line needs to be part of the Act 537 plan for Bethel. There were numbers talked about on how many additional hook ups would be part of the line. The cost associated for hooking up were also talked about. They would include the tapping fee, grinder pump fee and the fee to hook up from house to sewer line. McCarthy Engineering sent out information on low cost loans for residents needing to hook up.

Eugene Orlando stated the Township needs to do things uniformly. Eugene Orlando asked Jim McCarthy to give a brief outline of the process and time frame. Jim McCarthy explained the process and stated it would be anywhere from 9 months to 2 years.

David Peters asked how much the reimbursement will be for the line along 645. It was stated it has not been calculated at this point. He asked if the developer can pay for the tapping fees as they are why the line was installed. It was stated that is not allowed.

It was asked if the Board of Supervisors will revise the Bethel Act 537 plan to include Old Route 22. Liz Magovern will contact developer to see if they would be willing to pay for the extension process for it to be included.

Mike Graby thanked the Authority for the work they do. He said he knows it is a thankless job.

Adjourn

A motion was made by Lee Groff, seconded by Mike Graby to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Bob Lingle, seconded by Kevin Stupp to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted

Jayne K Seifrit, Township Secretary