

SUMMIT TOWNSHIP WATER AUTHORITY
Regular Business Meeting
Tuesday, December 4, 2018

The regular business meeting of the Summit Township Water Authority was called to order by Chairman Kupetz at 6:00 p.m., followed by a salute to the flag. Present were Authority members Kurtz, Haaf, Lacey and Bickel. Also present were Engineer Maas, Solicitor Blakely, Manager Troutman and Recording Secretary Hayford. There were twelve residents in the audience.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Bickel, seconded by Lacey, approving the minutes of the November 7, 2018 Regular Business Meeting as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VOTE: 5/0

Motion by Lacey, seconded by Bickel, approving the November Treasurer's Report as presented.

APPROVAL OF TREASURER'S REPORT

VOTE: 5/0

Motion by Haaf, seconded by Kurtz, that said amounts be drawn upon the treasury for payment of the November 2018 expenses.

APPROVAL OF EXPENSES

VOTE: 5/0

Several residents attended to discuss ongoing problems with dirty water throughout their area.

John Hanke, 2636 Saddlewood Drive, explained that despite the hard flush of the system and taking other measures, many of the residents are still experiencing periods of brown water, the most recent being on Thanksgiving and the day following. He worries that this could have a negative impact on home sales within his growing community as well as decrease the likelihood of re-sale on existing homes.

**J. HANKE
2636 SADDLEWOOD DR.**

John Eller, 2696 Saddlewood Drive, added that he also had discolored water the week prior to Thanksgiving.

**J. ELLER
2696 SADDLEWOOD DR.**

Responding to a general comment about the possibility of a break being the cause of the problem, Manager Troutman explained that this theory isn't likely since we aren't seeing an unexplained decrease in the level of the water tower.

Troutman further described other steps which have been taken in an attempt to correct the situation. In July, the Dorn Road water line was completed to alleviate the impact that LORD's quarterly fire line test was having on the area. With reports of continued problems still coming in, the Authority will not allow any further testing of this magnitude until further notice. Smart Phos was also added to the water to control iron and manganese, a naturally occurring problem in any water system. Initial indications are that this has helped but cautioned that it can take up to 6 months to have a full impact.

ACTION ALREADY TAKEN TO CORRECT DIRTY WATER PROBLEMS

Dawn Huffman, 2610 Laurie Drive, started experiencing dirty water in August, 2018. Since that time she has noticed sediment building up in her fixtures and appliances.

**D. HUFFMANN
2610 LAURIE DR.**

She presented the Board with pictures of the water in her home.

Karen Lunger, 2660 Laurie Drive, echoed frustration with the additional cleaning and flushing that is necessary any time the dirty water comes through on top of costly

**K. LUNGER
2660 LAURIE DR.**

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filters that plug up and need to be replaced. This was especially upsetting when it happened over the Thanksgiving holiday while she was preparing the meal.

Doug Lunger, 2660 Laurie Drive, said that they use to experience dirty water only once or twice a year which was then thought to be because of the demand by Saddlewood's irrigation system. Now the problem persists all year long. He went on to say that one of the reasons he built on Laurie Drive was because he was told that it had 'city' water. It was only a couple of years ago that he learned that they were part of a well system.

**D. LUNGER
2660 LAURIE DR.**

Engineer Maas explained that International law prohibits dispersing water from Lake Erie outside of the Great Lakes water shed, the boundary of which runs through Summit Township. As such, some areas of the Township must be supplied with water from production wells.

Richard Nurse, 2625 Laurie Drive, was also unaware that his water was being sourced from a well. He too is frustrated with ongoing problems and had several questions about the LORD testing.

**R. NURSE
2625 LAURIE DR.**

Maas explained that during the quarterly fire pump testing at LORD, a demand of 2,000 – 3,000 gpm is generated causing the system to become stirred up. The same can happen if the direction of flow changes suddenly. Both scenarios will result in discolored water temporarily.

**LORD TESTING
EXPLAINED**

Another possibility is that iron and manganese could be leaching out. Currently, the Authority is treating for this and levels are within the required standard. Even though this is considered a nuisance contaminant and not dangerous to public health, any level that leads to water such as this is unacceptable. Many customers throughout the system receive service from our well and have never experienced dirty water. Authority employees also report that the water is running clear at the source. He is puzzled as to why we are seeing problems only in this corner Township.

**OTHER POSSIBILITIES
CONSIDERED**

Troutman thanked everyone for their patience throughout this frustrating process and assured that we are working on finding a solution. He added that meetings have been held with representatives of LORD, the DEP and Pennsylvania Rural Water Association on this issue. Customers were encouraged to call or email the office any time they have dirty water. Typically, this is the only way we are aware of a problem.

Doug Lunger added that he experienced dirty water on Thanksgiving. After employees flushed the main, his water cleared up but on Sunday it was dirty again.

D. LUNGER

Several residents asked why the Authority is no longer posting notices to warn customers of upcoming testing which may affect their water quality. Troutman explained that since the addition of the Dorn Road water line, we did not expect there

to be any further problems, thus there would be nothing to warn about. In fact, LORD has conducted testing since that time which did not cause dirty water.

Maas further commented that by prohibiting any quarterly large-scale testing at LORD, we can eliminate that possibility leaving treatment as the only problem left. If that is the case, we may need to go back to using wells #1 and #2 and see if that changes anything.

Richard Nurse wanted to know what the action plan will be and time line for it to be implemented. Maas answered that the LORD testing will be stopped immediately. If it is determined that we need to change over to wells #1 and #2, he felt that process could be completed within a few days. He will have a more complete plan in place for the next meeting.

**ACTION PLAN
DETAILED**

Bill Locke, 2550 Saddlewood Drive, went on record saying that he has had persistent problems for the past three years. During that time he had to replace expensive filters throughout his home several times.

**B. LOCKE
2550 SADDLEWOOD DR.**

Carol Eller, 2696 Saddlewood Drive, asked if samples provided by other customers were ever analyzed. Troutman explained that we are not able to test these specific samples because they were not collected in sterile containers or kept at the required temperature. Other testing has been conducted however and the water was determined to be 'potable'.

**C. ELLER
2696 SADDLEWOOD DR.**

Maas recalled that some of these problems seemed to get worse when well #3 was put into operation. Prior to that time we were using wells #1 and #2, both of which were going through extensive treatment including the use of the stripping tower. We may need to revert to this if things don't resolve simply by stopping the LORD test. One drawback of this arrangement is that we may have a difficult time meeting the demand during peak season at Presque Isle Downs.

**MAAS DISCUSSED
REVERTING TO
WELLS #1 & #2**

In other business, Troutman reported that D & M Painting has suspended the completion of the south tower painting until spring. A letter dated December 4th assures that there will be no additional charge to the Authority because of this delay. Troutman also noted that there have been some spikes in the pressure from the tower since D & M left. It was discovered that plastic used to cover the vent during painting wasn't removed. A representative from the company will be on-site tomorrow to correct the problem.

**SOUTH TOWER
PAINTING DELAYED**

Lastly, there are several changes that need to be made in order to update our Rules and Regulations including the charge for pressure reducers which is now passed on to the customer. Troutman will review these updates with Solicitor Blakely and present them at the January meeting for consideration.

**RULES & REGULATIONS
TO BE UPDATED**

With no further business to come before the Board, motion by Bickel, seconded by Kurtz, to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTE: 5/0

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Respectfully submitted,

Gretchen L. Hayford
Recording Secretary
12/21/18