

The August 28, 2019 Special Meeting of the Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority was called to order by Chairman Sherrock at 6:30 PM. All in attendance gave a pledge of allegiance.

Roll Call:

Ammon – Present
George – Present
Sherrock – Present

Fayock – Present
Grink – Present
Sullivan – Present

Gallagher – Present
Milot – Present
Zola – Absent

Also in Attendance:

Christopher Carsia – Director of Operations
Andy Nowak – Field Operations Manager
Gene Zynel – Plant Operations Manager
Lisa Ninotti – UGI Energy Services

Gregory Olander – Director of Administration
Attorney Joseph D. Ustynoski – Solicitor
Rachel Govelovich, P.E. – Gannett Fleming

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

Christopher Carsia introduced Lisa Ninotti of UGI Energy Services for a presentation on current trends in the natural gas market and how the additional gas volume needed for the incinerator will affect the Authority's rates.

Ms. Ninotti gave a brief description of the UGI corporate structure and the Authority's current usage for three (3) accounts with a NT classification, which is a typical rate tier for lower volume users. Lisa recommended a "blend and extend" contract for the Authority due to the larger volume needed when the incinerator becomes operational. She said the rate can be locked in as an extension to the existing contract for one year until a baseline is determined based on incinerator usage. She said the Authority is currently paying \$4.97 per dekatherm (DTH) for the NT rate, but it is a good time to enter into a contract for a higher volume rate since natural gas is at its lowest level in 3 ½ years. She stated that the rate is expected to increase as we move closer to the cold weather. There was a lengthy discussion of incinerator usage estimates and optional longer contract terms. Lisa stated that each month the Authority would need to buy or sell at market price to balance against the contracted usage volume that is chosen. She said the price being offered on a 12 month contract right now is \$3.00/DTM.

Lisa Ninotti exited the meeting at this time.

Christopher Carsia asked the Board if they wanted to move on the \$3.00/DTM rate with a condition that the Solicitor review the contract.

George & Gallagher moved to approve a 12 month contract with UGI Energy Services for the purchase of natural gas at the treatment plant at a cost not to exceed \$3.00/DTM conditioned upon Solicitor review and approval.

Roll Call: Ammon-yes, Fayock-yes, Gallagher-yes, George-yes, Grink-yes, Milot-yes, Sherrock-yes, Sullivan-yes, Zola-absent (Passed 8-0-1)

Christopher stated that he asked the Authority's Plant Operations Manager, Gene Zynel, to attend the meeting to report on the Incinerator Conference he attended in Green Bay, WI. Prior to Gene's presentation, there was a discussion of the Authority's incinerator construction schedule. Rachel noted that stack testing must begin by March 2020, which requires the incinerator to be dried-out over a period of time to prevent damage to the refractory lining. Board Member Ammon asked if the

contractor is on schedule to meet the construction timeframe now. Rachel responded that the schedule slipped to mid-January for having the reactor dried-out and ready to begin burning sludge. She stated that it must operate and be optimized before performing the required testing. Rachel also noted that there are a lot of electrical connections needed before the individual pieces of equipment can be started. She said there is now some concern that the electrical connections will not be completed in time for the equipment startups. Board Member Ammon asked if all the critical pieces of equipment were onsite. Rachel responded that the centrifuge has not been delivered yet it is one of the reasons for the current delay. Rachel stated that key milestones would be provided to the contractors so they can put emphasis on those areas. She said the contractors are working on an updated schedule that will be provided to the Board at the next meeting.

Gene Zynel began an update on the Incineration Conference in Green Bay, WI. He said the conference was very well attended and it is apparent that there is increased interest in incineration as a sludge disposal method. He attributed the renewed interest to a few reasons, the first being the start-up and operation of air quality equipment now able to meet the new MACT LLLL limits imposed by the US EPA. He said the first to meet the new limits was the Mattabassett Sewer District in Connecticut and the second was the Green Bay, Wisconsin treatment plant. He said the Authority would be the third treatment plant incinerator meeting the new EPA regulations. He said the second reason for renewed interest is beneficial reuse of the incinerator flyash rather than disposal of the byproduct. He said the third and possible most important reason is the recent EPA studies of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS and PFOS) substances as new emerging water contaminants. He said these substances are not able to be broken down in conventional treatment and the only way to destroy the compounds is by using high heat such as incineration. Gene then gave a detailed presentation of the operation of the Green Bay incinerator and the similarities and differences between their operation and the Authority's incinerator installation and expected operation.

There was a discussion regarding heightened security measures at the treatment plant as part of the incinerator installation.

Grink & Fayock moved to enter executive session to discuss a legal issue. Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

After the Board moved out of executive session, **Milot & Grink** moved to adjourn.

Passed: Aye-8, Nay-0, Absent-1

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Greater Hazleton Joint Sewer Authority



Gregory Olander, Assistant Secretary