

READINGTON-LEBANON SEWERAGE AUTHORITY

June 24, 2020

OPENING: Dr. Schaible, Chairman opened this regular meeting and announced that the Sunshine laws have been satisfied for the convening of this meeting.

PRESENT: Dr. Schaible, Messrs. Burton, Monaco, and Cichone, members, Mrs. Plesnarski, Administrator. Ms. Rohrbach and Dr. Westfield did not attend.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of May 27, 2020 as written, was carried with roll call of ayes all, nays none.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES: Motion to approve the invoices for the month of June in the amount of \$ **76,384.54** along with the authorization for the Administrator to transfer this amount into the Operating Checking account on July 1, 2020 was made by Mr. Cichone, seconded by Mr. Burton, and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

APPROVAL OF BUDGET STATEMENT: Motion to acknowledge the review and approve the June Budget Statement without any exceptions noted as written was made by Mr. Burton, seconded by Mr. Monaco and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

NEW BUSINESS: *Employee Disciplinary Action* – Mrs. Plesnarski informed the board that a disciplinary action has been taken on an employee. The employee has threatened litigation. Mrs. Plesnarski has been in contact with our labor attorney and if there are any further developments, Mrs. Plesnarski will advise the board. As the employee has been on suspension, a RICE notice could not be issued so detailed account will not be discussed. Mr. Cichone concurred that when appropriate, Mrs. Plesnarski will advise the board.

OLD BUSINESS: *Lebanon Pump Station Metering* – Engineers from the township and borough, Mrs. Plesnarski and Mr. Ponte met to discuss flows. Readington has been working on manholes to stop infiltration. The borough has experienced drier weather and a commercial water usage drop over the last month. Mr. Hill feels he is getting closer to base flow and thus approaching his target for borough's COAH requirements. Mr. Hill, Lebanon Borough's engineer noted that the Lebanon meter and the RLSA meter at the LBPS have correlated as Mr. Ponte had previously confirmed. Mr. Hill is attempting to plug the leaks in the system to regain capacity that will be needed for the borough's COAH obligation so they would not have to seek additional capacity. Mr. Cichone noted that the borough has been diligently working on reducing I&I over several years. Mr. Burton noted that he would like to address the service agreement between the township and borough as he feels that it does not accurately reflect the current conditions of the respective entities. Mr. Monaco reiterated that the LBPS metering has been settled as the meters correlate. Mr. Burton agreed that currently they correlate but still believes that was not previously the case. Mr. Cichone noted that he would like an assurance that Readington Township is also working on tightening up infiltration. He would like to reduce the total flow to the authority and thereby reduce total costs which would benefit both entities. Mr. Monaco noted that the township committee is working on infiltration and has similar issues concerning the COAH obligation. Mr. Cichone would like Mr. Monaco to present specific progress with their engineer. Mr. Burton would like to modernize the service agreement and have both entities meter the flow sent to the authority. Mr. Monaco does not agree with the need to meter Readington's flow instead of calculating by subtraction as is currently done. If additional meters will help pinpoint where infiltration is coming from Mr. Monaco agrees to their merit, but he does not feel that they will assist in clarifying the percentage of total flows to the authority. Mr. Cichone would like the Readington engineers to come to a meeting to explain what steps have been taken to tighten their system. Dr. Schaible asked Mr. Hill what Lebanon's percentage of flow has been during the current dry period. Mr. Hill stated that it is 26-27%. When Merck was contributing to Readington's flow the percentage was 22-23%. Mr. Hill's assistant noted that there are spikes in flows. Mrs. Plesnarski stated that the peaks in flow are due to Round Valley pumping down a holding tank to keep contents fresh. Mr. Ponte noted to regain 60,000gpd

from a total of 240,000 gpd from I&I will be difficult. He noted that the main causes are from sump pumps, gutters and illegal connections which hurt the treatment plant as sudden large flows. Mr. Cichone would like Mr. Ponte to look at Readington and Lebanon's work to reduce I&I and determine what the problem is. Mr. Ponte does not believe that this is something that the RLSA needs to address. Mr. Burton agrees that the township and borough have their own engineers to determine the best practice. Mrs. Plesnarski agrees that Mr. Ponte is working in the interest of the Authority and believes that he does not serve the interest of the township or borough but both collectively. Mrs. Plesnarski clarified that she understands that Mr. Burton would like to decrease total inflow by asking Readington Township to address their I&I issue and in effect decrease treatment costs but would like to note that by doing so Lebanon Borough's percentage of flow will likely increase. In that scenario there may not be a cost savings for Lebanon. Mr. Burton understands and would in turn like to address the service agreement. Mr. Monaco noted that their engineer has been driving through the township looking for illegal connections. They did find inlets in lawns that were hooked up to the sewer. Mr. Cichone has asked Mr. Hill to estimate how much has been spent on I&I and has asked Mr. Monaco to also get an estimate from their engineers. All members agreed that they will continue this discussion and would like engineers from the township, borough, and authority to meet and present plans to decrease I&I.

ADJOURNMENT: As there was no further business to come before the Board, meeting was adjourned by motion made by Mr. Cichone seconded by Mr. Burton and carried with a roll call of ayes all, nays none.

Respectfully submitted:

Richard Burton
Vice Chairman

Virginia Weierich
Recording Secretary