

**Borough of Hamburg
Board of Public Works Meeting Minutes
December 11, 2024**

Call to Order/Statement of Certification: In accordance with the open Public Meeting Act, with regard to notices, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Hamburg Board of Public Works was hereby called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Garrett invited all those present to participate in the flag salute.

Roll call: Chairman Garrett, Pat Berado, Vinnie Busteed, Paul Marino, John Moeckel, John Haig and Mayor Krasnomowitz. John Perry, John Ruschke and Alec Yanish were in attendance. Regina Flammer was not in attendance.

Minutes: Brief discussion on the inspection and zoning permit required for 176 Route 23 prior to removal of the EDU as requested by the property owner. A motion is made by Marino, second by Busteed to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2024 meeting with all other members in favor. Brief discussion on the inspection and zoning permit required for 176 Route 23 prior to removal of the EDU as requested.

Individual Cases: The Board discusses the documents submitted by John Zappile, owner of property located at 39 Winding Brook Road supporting his request for an exemption of the smart meter installation. Mr. Zappile was not in attendance. The discussion is led by Moeckel, Ruschke and Perry on the safety of smart meters. Discussion continues on an ordinance amendment addressing property owners with similar concerns about the smart meter installation.

A motion is made by Busteed, second by Moeckel to recommend to Council that the ordinance be amended to include a \$75 additional meter reading fee for properties without smart meters. This fee would be in addition to the regular quarterly billing. All eligible members in favor including Berado, Marino and Chairman Garrett.

Old Business/New Business: The Board discusses the December 10, 2024 email from Keith Sukennikoff, Office of Emergency Management. (1) The Borough currently has one portable generator. A transfer switch cost between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Yanish will get two to three quotes for the wellhouses, booster station and sewer station.

(2) Ruschke suggests a FEMA grant for costs associated with the installation of hydrants with Storz connection for large diameter hose connections. The Borough has compatible hoses.

(3) Perry indicates that hydrant flow tests should be performed every five years as indicated in the email from OEM. Perry will get quotes to perform the tests. Haig does not have a recollection of these tests being performed. Ruschke adds that Keith Sukennikoff should research grant funds for this.

Board discussion about the recent fire on Gingerbread Castle Road. Over one million gallons were used. Haig indicates that water was pulled from the Walkill River and one hydrant. There was damage to the hydrant.

At 7:27 p.m., a motion is made by Marino, second by Moeckel to open to the professionals with all others in favor.

Engineer/Water Superintendent Report: Regina Flammer is not in attendance. The date on the notice for the water turnoffs was not correct and that was not realized until Yanish had turned off 30 to 40 water meters. Chairman adds that this was not acceptable. Prior to sending out future notices, they should be proofread for accuracy by a member of the municipal staff.

Perry discusses the County's Flow Reports which did not vary much. He requests approval for an air sensor to measure the well levels. Ruschke concurs that this would be useful. Perry will get quotes and estimates the cost to be \$1,000 to \$2,000.

Ruschke reveals that Mott MacDonald has made a business decision to discontinue municipal services for 2025 in favor of large-scale capital projects which the company is known for. Part of the decision was based on the issues hiring and retaining engineers due to competition. Marino suggests getting generators completed prior to Ruschke's departure. Ruschke commits to assisting the Borough with the transition and being available until a new firm is found.

Discussion on line replacement and grant money. Perry to send out letter to property owners in older neighborhoods informing them of available funding.

A motion is made at 7:45 p.m. by Marino, second by Moeckel to close to the Board professionals with all in favor.

Public Portion: No public in attendance.

Adjourn: At 7:45 p.m., a motion is made by Marino, second by Busteed with all others in favor to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:



Wendy Brick
Secretary to the Board of Public Works