

**AVONDALE BOROUGH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
NOVEMBER 15, 2005**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jay Pusey, Russ Kilmer, Fred Bryan, Bob Cleveland, Jerry Poe, Pat Longen    Absent: Rose Ann Swift

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Walter Barcz, Lew Christy, George Smith, Bill Romanelli, Mike Shiring, Cheryl Franklin, Howard Thompson, Pat Harrison, Harold Brown, Shawn Carroll

After the Pledge of Allegiance, President Pusey called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

President Pusey announced that Executive Sessions were held on October 10, 2005 and November 14, 2005 to discuss legal matters.

**RESIDENT COMMENT/REQUEST/COMPLAINT**

**LOU KIRKALDIE**

Mr. Kirkaldie said on October 29<sup>th</sup>, the White Clay Creek Committee held a celebration commemorating five years the White Clay Creek has been officially named a Wild and Scenic River. Awards were given and Mr. Kirkaldie said he received one for serving 12 years on the committee. Council congratulated Mr. Kirkaldie and thanked him for his years of service helping to preserve the White Clay Creek

**AVON GROVE LIBRARY – CHERYL FRANKLIN**

Cheryl Franklin said the library would like to thank Avondale Borough for their donation of one dollar per capita. The State mandates that every municipality in the Avon Grove School District donates a dollar per capita or the Avon Grove Library loses all funding to the Exton Library. Each municipality receives ten dollars worth of service for every dollar donated to the library. Ms. Franklin said that everyone should come to the library to check the many services it provides to our community.

**WILKINSON PROJECT**

**CONDITIONAL USE DECISION – EXTENSION**

Mike Shiring said the Borough's ordinance places an expiration time frame of six months on Special Exceptions and it is silent on Conditional Uses. However, it does state that all Conditional Uses are to be treated as Special Exceptions. This part of the ordinance is a gray area and the Borough's Solicitor suggested that Wilkinson ask Council to extend the six month period to one year. The six month extension would be extended until the end of November 2006 in which Wilkinson would have that period to file the plans. Fred Bryan made a motion to give the extension until November 30, 2006, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

**WAIVERS**

President Pusey said that the Jamie Mac Combie, the Borough's Engineer assigned to the Wilkinson Project will review the waivers and make his recommendations to Council. A special meeting has been scheduled for November 29, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. to discuss and possibly vote on the waivers.

**MILLER ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

Lew Christy gave the following report:

Monthly Water Production – 3,171,200 gallons / average daily flow – 102,297 gallons

Monthly Effluent Flow – 15,418,000 gallons / average daily flow – 497,000 gallons

New Garden Flow – 4,057,990 gallons / average daily flow – 115,943 (9/27/05 to 11/2/05)

Unaccounted Monthly Wastewater Flow – 8,188,810 (53.1%)

NPDES Violations - 2- The violations were for the average monthly loading and average monthly concentration for ammonia nitrogen.

The following activities were reported for the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant:

- Siphoned excess rainwater from Reservoir Cover.
- Chester County Health Department performed an inspection of the water plant on 10/6/05 and will be mailing the inspection report to the Borough of Avondale.
- Repaired water meter remote at 314 Church Street.
- Shut water off to Pop's Diner on 10/9/05 so they could repair a water leak under the building.
- Performed 19 water meter re-reads though out the Borough.
- Performed 5 PA One-Calls and 5 Borough Water Action Forms through out the Borough.
- On 10/8/05 the entire plant lost power during a rainstorm that caused a tree branch to fall onto the power lines inside the plant grounds. The emergency generator came on immediately causing no interruption of treatment to the plant. Gaebel Construction was called to supply diesel fuel for the generator during the power outage.
- Stopped spraying Sodium Hypo-Chlorite onto the sludge holding tank and started adding air into the sludge holding tank.
- Control Ex Inc. repaired the influent wet well level control bubbler system.
- New scale for the effluent 150 lb. chlorine cylinder was replaced due to the original scale being defective.
- Installed a new influent wet well high level alarm probe.
- The Pennsylvania DEP performed an inspection of the facility on 10/31/05.
- Attended construction meeting for new plant.

**UNACCOUNTED WATERWATER FLOW**

President Pusey asked if Miller Environmental had any idea where the high percentage of unaccounted wastewater flow is going. George Smith said the age of the water meters would account for the some of percentage because it is a well documented fact that when meters get old they slow down. The water production that is being reported today is no higher than it was when Miller Environmental started working for the Borough. Due to the age of the system, a fair amount is probably a very small amount of leaks. To close the gap between water produced and billable water the Borough should consider doing a meter change out. The Water and Sewer Committee will look into replacing meters.

**DEP INSPECTION – GEORGE SMITH**

George Smith said he would like to give a history on what transpired when Miller Environmental was contracted to run the WWTP. Following is his report:

When the Borough requested a proposal from us for the operations and maintenance of the facilities in the Summer of 1996, myself and other Miller Environmental personnel were given a tour of the facilities by the Borough's employee, Mr. Phillip Minor who we were told was the operator at that time. During this

tour, Mr. Minor pointed out the wastewater plant equipment that was currently in use for aeration of the A, B and C cells of the activated sludge process. The equipment in use at this time was two twenty horse power blowers capable of running one at a time and one as stand-by, these blowers supplied air to the cells through piping appendages and diffusers and was installed at some time prior to our involvement to replace the surface aerators. We did observe the blower was relieving air at the safety blow off valve. Air was supplied to the C cells by a 10 horse power surface aerator in each cell.

Mr. Minor pointed out the surface aerator equipment in the cells and stated they have been decommissioned due to problems associated with obtaining mechanical and electrical parts and these units were in various states of disrepair due to the equipment age, which at this time was approximately 30+ years. Mr. Minor described to us and showed us examples of why equipment was de-commissioned such as aerator gear drives that were making excessive noise, leaking oil seals, failed electrical components in some aerators motor control center, primary power leads between the motor starter and the motor had been disconnected, and electrical components that had been removed from one aerator motor control center to be used as replacement parts for other failed equipment in the master control panel. We looked into the motor control center and at the aerators and agreed with Mr. Minor the equipment was beyond its useful life expectancy and agreed it had been de-commissioned.

I visited the plant today to determine if any of the aerators in the A&B cells could be placed into service and was only able to get one of the B cell aerators to come on once I replaced a fuse. Upon start up, this aerator was making a very audible grinding noise from the gear box so I felt it was best to shut it back off to prevent any damage to the unit.

Prior to making any changes, I measured the amperage draw in the mode we have been currently operating. In the current mode of operation, amperage draw on one leg already exceeds motor name plate data. I then valved up the blower diffuser system to cut the air off to the C cells and to send all air to the A&B cells in an effort to increase dissolved oxygen. While we did see a slight increase in dissolved oxygen in the A&B cells after one hour, I measured the amperage draw for the blower and determined it was exceeding the full load amperage rating on all three legs. At this point the blower was relieving air at the safety blow off so I returned the system to providing air to the C cells so as not to cause damage to the blower. Right now we are at the magic number to get the best ammonia results. The biggest problem is ammonia removal is not just about dissolved oxygen, it is about detention time, temperature and flow.

President Pusey asked if we could get someone to give an estimate on getting the aerators to work. Mr. Smith said MEI can get someone to evaluate what the electrical problems are and someone to look at the mechanical side but other than getting some seals and bearings, we probably will not be able to get any parts because of the age of the equipment. Bob Cleveland said even if we take care of fixing the motors, according to the e-mail Mr. Smith sent, MEI is not comfortable with doing any of that unless the Borough re-negotiates because of the increase in electrical charges and asked Mr. Smith if he stands by this decision. Mr. Smith said yes he does stand by this decision and if this was equipment that was operating when MEI took over the plant then this would never be an issue. Mr. Smith said he would be willing to meet with Walter Barcz at the plant to go over the equipment.

**WWTP LIASON**

Howard Thompson gave the following report:

Mr. Thompson said he made two visits to the WWTP during the past month, one on November 4<sup>th</sup> and one today. The reactor is near completion; they have finished the concrete work and painted the inside. The north side clarifier concrete work is just about finished and they are pumping water into the clarifier to check the hydraulics. The pump house is nearly completed. The electrical and disinfection building and the disinfectant, utility and aeration building is near completion. There will be four chemical systems that will operate the new plant and they are: magnesium hydroxide, aluminum sulfate, sodium bisulphate and a chlorine feeding system.

**ENTECH REPORT**

Walter Barcz gave the following report:

**HENSON AND MAPLE STREET PROJECT**

The project is substantially complete. Entech is processing Melchiorre's application for payment #2 for \$180,571.25 and are recommending Council's approval. Fred Bryan made a motion to approve payment #2, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Longen, motion carried.

**WALABAX PAYMENT #10**

Walabax requested \$127,309.50. Entech is clearing this amount subject to receipt of Walabax's revised construction schedule required by specification 01300-1.9-B. Entech is recommending Council's approval of payment. Fred Bryan made a motion to approve payment #10 with the exception that the construction schedule is revised, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

**MONACACY PAYMENT #4**

Monacacy requested \$15,384.55. Entech is recommending Council's approval. Fred Bryan made a motion to approve payment #4, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

**1 MILLER DRIVE**

Expecting two new estimates by the first week in December.

**ENTECH TASK #4 – INCREASE – REGULATORY MATTERS**

Russ Kilmer made a motion to increase task #4 to \$2,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jerry Poe, motion carried.

**ENTECH TASK #9 – INCREASE – ADDITIONS TO THE WWTP PROJECT**

Russ Kilmer made a motion to increase Entech's Task #9 to \$5,500, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat Longen, motion carried.

**DEP INSPECTION**

After some discussion on George Smith's report, Walter will get an estimate and a time frame of installation on repairing/replacing the blower system.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Fred Bryan gave the following report:

**2006 BUDGET**

The Finance Committee has been working on the budget and are hoping to have it ready for the November 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS TO BE PAID**

The Finance Committee reviewed the bills to be paid and recommend that Council approve them. Fred Bryan made a motion to approve the bills to be paid, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The Finance Committee reviewed the financial statements and recommend that Council approve them. Russ Kilmer made a motion to approve to approve the financial statements, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob Cleveland, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Bob Cleveland made a motion to approve the minutes from the Council Meeting on October 18, 2005 and the Special Council Meeting on October 18, 2005 as written, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

**ZONING OFFICER'S REPORT**

Russ Kilmer said the Zoning Officer puts a statement on the report regarding the issues for the month but he needs to add that he followed up on the issue and add closure to the report. The Secretary will relay this to Tom Lowry.

**ANTHONY TSAGANOS – STRIP MALL**

The Secretary said a letter was sent to the Zoning Officer requesting permission to renovate and install a handicapped bathroom in the adjacent vacant space while the Dunkin Donuts is under construction. Council approved Mr. Tsaganos' request with the following exceptions: The plumbing is to be capped-off and no fixtures can be installed. The Use & Occupancy for this space will not be granted until the EDU's are available.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

In July, the Committee and President Pusey met with Entech regarding improving communications between Entech and the Borough. At that time, as reported to Council, it was stated that the Committee would revisit the matter in November. The Committee will meet, and report to Council at the next public meeting.

**WATER AND SEWER COMMITTEE**

Bob Cleveland gave the following report:

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. Council received a letter from PENNDOT regarding the State Street Bridge. The horizontal clearance signs need to be reset per standards, and the deteriorating concrete deck needs to be

repaired. Streets Committee spoke with the Borough Solicitor regarding the ownership of the bridge, and he is investigating.

2. The parking spaces at Avon News have not yet been installed. The Borough had to order a new line striper, which has now been received, and Dominick will install the lines soon.
3. The traffic study for the 100 & 200 block of Chatham St. has not yet been completed.

#### NEW BUSINESS

1. There are currently 8 known Abandoned/Expired/Inoperative vehicles in the Borough. Letters were sent to the residents.
2. The Henson/Maple Street Project is almost completed.
3. The dates for leaf pickup in the Borough are Nov. 14th and 21st.
4. The Borough manholes are currently being located, and placed on a collections system map.

#### PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Russ Kilmer gave the following report:

#### POLICE ACTIVITIES

The new rate will be going up by \$7.00 an hour due to the increase in fuel, insurance costs and labor. Russ said we need to figure out how many hours we can put in the 2006 budget because he needs to meet with Parkesburg Borough Council.

#### LOITERING

There have been concerns about people hanging out at the store across from Earl's Sub Shop and we need to contact Fritz Gaebel and tell him to put up "no loitering" signs so the police can enforce the loitering.

#### PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

Jerry Poe gave the following report:

#### BOROUGH PROPERTY BEHIND SMITHS

Spoke to Mrs. Smith and she is eager for the Borough to take over the property. Mrs. Smith has been trying to clean up the property and she is asking for the Borough's assistance to help her find a junk man to help clean off her property. President Pusey suggested that Bill Hopkins may be interested in helping Mrs. Smith. The Secretary will contact Mr. Hopkins.

#### AVON MOHR SWALES

Spoke to Howard Jones and he said everything seems to be stable and he has not had any water come in his basement. Mr. Jones took down his fence because this may have been part of the problem and he would like to have some bushes put in the area to make sure the vegetation stays rooted and keep the ground stabilized. President Pusey asked if it is the Borough's responsibility to put in the vegetation. Russ Kilmer said he believes it was part of the Borough's easement to maintain the swales because it protected the property owners downhill. Bob Cleveland said if the Borough is responsible for the swales then we should provide some type of vegetation. Mr. Kilmer said the committee should look into this matter and determine what to do. Mr. Poe will speak to Glenn Diehl regarding the Borough's responsibility.

**PARKS AND COMPOSTING FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Pat Longen gave the following report:

Cleaned up all the pallets around the dumpster in the park. Dug holes for the benches and next week they will be re-located around the playset area. Next week the committee will start working on the composting facility.

**OLD BUSINESS****ZONING BOARD VACANCY**

Russ Kilmer said Fred Hessenauer or Carolyn DiCecco may be interested in becoming a member of the Zoning Hearing Board. The Secretary will contact both interested parties.

**NEW BUSINESS****DATES AND TIMES OF MEETINGS**

President Pusey said the dates and times of meeting need to be advertised for 2006. After some discussion, the Water and Sewer Committee Meeting will take place on the fourth Tuesday of each month and the Council Meetings will take place on the Third Tuesday at 6:00 P.M starting January 2, 2006. Council changed the December's Council meeting to December 13, 2005 at 6:30 P.M and cancel the Water and Sewer Committee meeting for December. The Secretary will advertise the changes.

**REPORT SUBMISSIONS**

President Pusey said all reports, payment requests and anything else to be discussed at the meeting must be submitted to the Borough Secretary by 4:00 P.M. the Friday prior to Council Meetings.

**AUTHORIZATION TO BOROUGH SOLICITOR**

President Pusey said Glenn Diehl is requesting permission from Council to be able to speak for the Borough in communication with Miller Environmental's Lawyer. Glenn has made some requests with Miller's attorney and their response was that they want to hear if from the Borough Council. Russ Kilmer said we need to write Glenn a letter and copy Miller Environmental stating that Glenn is the Borough's attorney and he can speak on the Borough's behalf, Council agreed. The Secretary will write the letter.

**ANNONCEMENT**

President Pusey announced that there will be a Special Meeting on Tuesday, November 29, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. to discuss the Wilkinson Waivers.

Jerry Poe made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m., 2<sup>nd</sup> by Russ Kilmer, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Brownback  
Borough Secretary

