

The meeting of the Upper Pottsgrove Township Board of Commissioners was held via webcast utilizing Zoom software through the internet at 7:00 pm on Tuesday April 14, 2020 with Commissioners Trace Slinkerd, Renee Spaide, Martin Schreiber, Cathy Parette and Dave Waldt present. Also present were Township Manager Michelle Reddick, Township Attorney Matthew Hovey, Police Chief James Fisher, Township Sewer Committee Chair John Bealer, Township Engineer Chris Pelka and Township Secretary Jeannie DiSante. Other participants of the meeting included Township Special Council Marc Feller and representatives and legal counsel from PFM and PA American Water.

OPENING COMMENTS – T. Slinkerd welcomed the Commissioners and Township staff along with the public who logged onto the live webcast. He explained the meeting is a continuation of the public presentations to provide information on the sale of the Township’s sanitary sewage collection system. He detailed the procedure for signing in with name and address then asking questions at the end of the presentation.

Scott Shearer and Benjamin Kapenstein, PFM Financial Advisors, LLC (PFM) presented and reviewed slides detailing the timeline of the Township’s exploration of selling the Township owned sanitary sewage collection system. Detailed were the reasons for exploring the sale: retiring debt, replenishing unfunded pension liability, deteriorating infrastructure, eliminating capital spending exposure, eliminating system risk, tapping fee reduction and initial fee reduction with reasonable future fees. Also reviewed was PFM’s limited scope valuation results, the process of releasing a request for qualifications (RFQ), confidentiality agreements, meetings & tours with bidders and the processing of the bids submitted to the Township. Of the two companies, PA American Water (PAW) and Aqua that submitted bids, PA American Water had the highest bid of \$13,750,000.

Bernie Grundusky, (PAW) reviewed slides detailing information on the company and their business model. The company is headquartered in Mechanicsburg, PA and is the largest water/wastewater company in PA, noting they serve approximately 2.4 million people in 36 counties, 19% of the population in PA. They serve 35,500 customers in neighboring communities including Royersford, Glen Alsace and Exeter Districts. The Company symbol is AWK on the NYSE. He reviewed their investment in water/wastewater infrastructure and explained the regulatory oversights from PA DEP, EPA and PUC. He provided slides detailing tapping fees, the current rate charged by the Township and historical sewer rate increases and the proposed lower rates PA American Water will charge as well as rates over the long term up to year 2028.

Other slides detailed the Township’s Act 537 plan, current Township projects planned that will be assumed by PA American and future connections for new homes. Also estimated tax increases without the sale of the sewer system and the Township’s reductions in municipal expenses.

The public was invited to ask questions. Numerous residents provided their opinions as well as requesting more details on the proposed sale. Residents wanted to know why the vote could not be tabled until after the current COVID-19 quarantine is lifted so more residents could attend an open, live meeting at the Township offices. Questions were answered by the Township Manager and Board members, PFM and PAW participants in the meeting. Any questions that could not be answered during the presentation along with questions that were emailed to the Township Manager, will be compiled with answers and made available to the public through postings on the Township’s website and social media webpage.

**Minutes – Board of Commissioners
Upper Pottsgrove Township**

April 14, 2020

T. Slinkerd thanked all who participated and encouraged residents to email any other questions which will be answered by the Township staff, PFM and PAW then compiled into a list and posted online. He recapped the timeline going forward, there will be one additional informational and question and answer online Zoom meeting on April 16th at 7:00 PM and on April 20th there will be a Zoom meeting for resident's comments and Commissioners' discussion with a potential vote on the Ordinance for the sale of the sewer system.

ADJOURNMENT – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,


Jeannie DiSante, Township Secretary