

**May 18, 2023**

The Alexandria Borough Council met at the Alexandria Memorial Public Library in Alexandria, PA 16611. The meeting was called to order at 12:55 p.m. by President Judy Scott. Tessra Schlupp, Phil Wenrich, Dain Davis, Lucas Parkes, Mike Peters, Vice President Joel Pheasant, President Judy Scott, Walter Russell, ?? Intern for Rich Irvin

Solicitor Jeff Stover asked Dain to be his liason since he couldn't be at this meeting.

Tessra thanked all for attending and the information that has been sent along via email.

Sounds like storm water issues and you're in need of new pipes and lead management – Tesra

Army Corps just finished a study in town, we expect their results before November – Pres. Scott wanted to let them know

Certainly replacement of the storm water management will be taken care of. – Tesra

In the prelim investigation the Army Corps did include some green procedures that could be implemented – Lucas

Explained what Penn Vest typically does; PennVEST likes a lot more when there's a lot of green components included to mitigate flood water before it enters drainage systems – Tesra

Explained 4 Phase project plan – Pres. Scott

PennVEST can certainly fund the water portion, but nothing street related. She emphasized wanting to keep these meetings conversational. PennVEST has over a billion dollars over the next four years to fund water improvement projects. So there's plenty of money. They have that because the revolving nature of their program. We don't just rely on EPA grants or money from budget, we have a revolving fund that keeps us going. She gave a bit of history on PennVEST – just hit 11.4 billion dollars of funding. Anyhow, PennVEST takes that over a billion and they divide that up over board meetings and each meeting has an application cutoff date – a couple things have to occur: you have to have this meeting we're having today, necessary DEP permits approved (can get reimbursed), engineering has to be complete at that time (can reimburse as well), no drinking water projects. Of that over billion dollars, about 80 million is grant, we are significantly more a lending authority than a grant authority. You have to be technically ready to go by day of cutoff and have submitted an application online. We want to make sure that your local government is on board with this. The Huntingdon County land board will need onboard. Pretty easy to accomplish for a storm water projects, you're not going through farm land. Submit three years financial statements. Need to know about prior debt, how the system operates and organizes, collects money, etc. income and expense details. As PennVEST moves forward with the project when your done settling and getting to the end it's easy to request money. Asked when you may apply for money from PennVEST. – Tesra

We've just been awarded about 500k from the Multimodal Grant so we have to make tough choices and be very affective with what we have. We are in the process of organizing. – Pres. Scott

We are evaluate the Army Corps Studys and with the Multimodal what we have to use. We're trying to incorporate future projects with PennDOT and streetscapes. We want to include the larger plan. Looking uphill at the stormwater management, we may be able to get value out of those improvements. We're digging in and getting a lot more clear and bigger picture. Trying to sharpen the pencil on all of this. – Lucas

Since no shoot for date, I'm gonna rely heavily on you guys. – Tesra

The water project here we co-signed and you said about doubt. That truly is the only thing. – Pres. Scott says

That doesn't count against your borrowing base. – Tesra

Sometimes there's a percentage scale that you have a small amount of grant money that you have available. We want to see those grant percentages evaluated when we'd apply. – Pres. Scott

When folks apply, we fund as many folks as we can. We try to make sure everyone gets grant when people apply. – Tesra

We're discussing cameraing some sewer lines to get a bit of information. We're in that infancy as well and get everything out on the table. – Lucas

Is this a combined sewer/water system? – Tesra

It's still unknown

Does the borough charge a storm water fee currently? – Tesra

No, we do not, but would like to explore? – Pres. Scott

Are you considering a storm water committee or no? – Tesra

We need to explore that, please share your thoughts. – Pres. Scott

I know if I were doing it, not a legal person. There's some lawsuits right now over rain taxes. But the reality is it is a utility you have to manage so that your residents don't get flooded out. I get it, no one wants to pay more money, but sometimes it is a necessary evil to get these things done so that your town doesn't flow away. – Tesra

We encourage property owners to take initiative with this process. – Pres. Scott

I encourage you to find an attorney who's walked people through the storm water drainage system. I've seen success with people implementing the fee and also the storm water committee. It's really up to you how you want to handle that. If you're going to administer a

few, I encourage you to have a committee. I've paid a storm water fee for years and that's run through the local sewer authority who is also the storm water authority. A lot of ways to handle. I encourage you to talk to someone who has done that legally. – Tesra

Thank you for sharing the information. That is where we are at is gathering information. – Pres. Scott

Ferguson Twp, you may want to look at how they had done it. It was controversial. Not a suggestion any which way, but find out. How would any Sunset Provision on it work, after the loans paid off and the fee goes away? Does it matter. Does them having a fee go into them getting a grant or no? – Walter

I don't care either way if you get the loan paid off. The fees don't even the grant potential. Either way we know we get paid back. Once we're paid off I don't care what you do with the authority or committee. – Tesra

We just anticipate if it's an entity that can establish a few we just assume they will and we figure out a target rate and we weigh it. – Tesra

Obviously a storm water fee is not looked upon favorably. Small budget they have to work with and taxable abilities. They aren't a sanitary sewer... - Lucas

Always look at grant money first and exhaust that before a lender. Always feel free to reach out to me with questions, Phil feels the same. I can tell you how other sources of funding would interact with PennVEST. – Tesra

I try not to think too much about permits. I'm relying on you all and I know there's a permit, I don't need a copy, I need a cover letter or issue letter. I need to identify what permits you need and I have to sign off that things are complete. We want products that are ready to go. – Phil

How many houses are in the borough? \_Tesra

126 – Pres Scott

Goal is quantity. Reason is storm water and run off, etc. We calculate a rate based on any current debt against your taxing authority and your financial statements then the anticipate operation and maintenance cost that you're installing. We lump that together – multiply – divide and get resulting rate and that's the rate you'd have to charge any homeowner in the community in order to run your system and repay your debts. Then we look at a target rate median household income multiplied by a quarter of a percent – so we look at the cost to find out if it could cause hardship to your community. Gave target rate. Talked through tentative figures...full financial process for sewer and/or storm water – how we do everyone - target rate, resulting rate, grants, then loan, etc. – Tesra

There is potential for grant money. We just can't say we can do 100% grant money. – Tesra

You could tell us that. – Pres. Scott

As far as expanding the MS4 qualifications where's that? I was involved when it was breaking ground years ago and we were able to get municipalities out from under that. Where's that at.  
– Lucas

Everyone is trying to get their stuff done and meet requirements. I haven't seen any requirements. – Phil

Discussed MS4 – Phil, Lucas, Tesra

You don't have to worry about 2<sup>nd</sup> opinion review because it's not over 10 million dollars. -  
Tesra

Try to get things in a week ahead of time. A lot of times people want to ask what do you want to see in the specs. We aren't checking your work, we just want to see it's all complete and everything you're asking for money for has a water component to it. – Phil

Phil also looks to see that the project is consistent with ACT 167 Storm Water Management system – Tesra

We were just talking with the planning commission about 537, but not 167 – Pres. Scott

I believe Huntingdon County did adopt the 167 – Lucas

Project considerations and ineligible costs – you're not asking to fund a farm, are we planning on bidding the project out? When talking about payment PennVEST can do the trench and a foot on each side and sometimes curb to curb paving if it's state highway. I can't pay for interior plumbing or private, no redesign or re-dos during project. If it needs redone go back and make the person fix it. I can't refinance, all PennVEST projects must have a water component. Contract documents and bidding all PennVEST require or equal – just certain manufactures you want to use, make it work with your system... put them in your bid, follow up with back up manufacture – performance and payment bonds for contractors, procurement log is in place for these projects, DEP solicitation, etc. Security and collateral we will collect your audit statements. Went into details of process. Process, let's say you're ready May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024 no later than 5 pm you must submit your application, please submit it by 4 pm because my IT staff goes home then. Anything after 5 pm is early for next round, misses the cutoff. Phil will go in and check it's technically complete, all permits, ACT 167, etc. – Tesra

Provided some project detail/thoughts – Lucas and Pres. Scott

Highway occupancy permit by settlement, DEP prior to applying. – Tesra

I go in and look through the application, I am looking for inconsistencies, costs and ensuring not over inflated, all kinds of things, if I find anything and know the answer, I may fix it. If there are things that I'm not sure of the answer I will open the application and send out an acknowledgement letter. If there's something critical that's holding us up – like a permit or something, the worst case scenario is being deferred to the next round in 4 months. Assuming you resubmit the application and it's good to go it goes into under review status and that's a

black out period until some decisions are made. DEP looks at it, DCED looks at it, PennVEST looks at it, Governors office may look, Representatives look at it. The Thursday or Friday before the schedule board meeting you'll see an email notification that you've been selected and you can attend the email via Zoom or come to Harrisburg and sit in. At the board meeting we will pull pictures up of what you're experiencing so give me that worst pictures. We show that board the worst of the worst – once completed you'd get a funding offer if selected.

All terms and conditions, all apps are required to have three folks registered and linked with Keystone Links – borrower role, engineer role, legal council, etc. Explained Keystone process, conference calls to walk through ever step of process – explained each phone call – any way I can help call me, I don't want you stressing out. – Tesra

Thank you for all of this, we are getting more aware, thank you – Pres Scott

There's no reason for me to believe this schedule wouldn't follow suit for next fiscal year – Tesra

Projects are ranked. – Tesra

Talked through ranking details – Phil

This is the first I've heard about a possible authority creation or moving it to a sewer authority, I also serve on that. We currently still have a PennVEST loan from about 13 years ago. Does that have any negative impact? – Mike

No, likely separate revenue stream. Unless you could prove it's a combined sewer/storm water system? – Tesra

Asked questions about the finances of sewer authority – Phil

Haven't had to raise rates since project either, the authority serves Porter Twp too so we'd have to keep separate accounts, right? Mike

If it's combined the treatment would be combined – Tesra

Discussed a bit more, said thank you's. End