**Adamstown Borough Council** **February 6, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00PM at the Adamstown Borough Wastewater Treatment Plant, 235 E. Swartzville Road, Denver by Council President Randy Good.

Council Present: Randy Good, Dave Matz, deLyn Alumbaugh, Alex McManimen, James Johnson-Null, Paul Marx, Mark Bansner

**Visitors present**: Chief McKim, Derek Miller, Chuck Hess, Wendy Kerschner, Jason Hess, Victoria Motter, Cheryl Davis, Steve Davis, Deb Schmidt, Helen Shaak, Marcy Koch, Jim Koch, Beatrice Hassler, Patricia Ernest, Lynwood Hassler, Kelly Grant, Sandra Koch, Linda Woods, Larry Woods, Lisa Musser, Henry Tejada, Juberky Rodriguez, Kim Rossanese, Lex Bost, Clara Rodrigues

**Others present:** Mayor John Schmidt, Mike Palm, Julie Scherer, Sam Toffy

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 2, 2024 meeting were approved with a motion from D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried.

**BILL LIST:** Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve all bills and receipts presented.

**POLICE REPORT:**

The January Police Report was read by Chief McKim.

**FIRE REPORT:**

The January Fire Report was read by Chief Miller. There will be a soup and sub sale on March 9th from 10AM until sold out.

**VISITORS BUSINESS:**

Beatrice (Beaty) Hassler Day - Mayor Schmidt presented a Proclamation announcing February 8, 2024 as Beatrice (Beaty) Hassler Day. Beaty is 100 years old and currently lives on Walnut Street with her daughter.

182 E. Main Street Water/Sewer Bill - The property owners addressed Council regarding an unusually high bill the past two quarters. The July and October bills were a total of just under $6K. The PW Department replaced the meter on November 7th and ran testing which still showed water still flowing thorough the new meter almost constantly. A. McManimen explained that this signifies there is most likely a slow leak somewhere, possibly in the toilet and they should hire a plumber to check for a leak. To date they have not hired a plumber.

Boy Scouts Troop 4318 - Members of Scout Troop 4318 addressed Council regarding sponsorship of a benefit bingo event being held on March 16th at the Denver Fire Hall. The event will benefit various Scout groups.

*Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to approve donating $50 towards the event.*

**SPECIAL TOPICS:** None.

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

M. Palm said they had the SRBC audit and no discrepancies were found. The water meters at both well houses are required to be recalibrated by June of 2026 and the Well #4 permit expires September 19, 2027 so that will have to be submitted by March of 2027.

There were two leaks which were repaired, one on Willow Street was a circular crack repaired with a band and the other on Jefferson Road where the pipe had to be cut which requires a new piece of pipe held in place with two couplings. A boil advisory was issued with this leak because there was negative air pressure which means that sediment was able to infiltrate into the pipe. DEP was contacted and two water samples were required to be taken to assure the water was safe to drink before lifting the boil advisory.

There was a pre-construction meeting held at the plant for the raw sewage pump replacement. Both contractors are required to submit a schedule to SDE for approval. The schedules were submitted this morning and once approved they could begin work.

There was an energy audit performed this morning at the WWTP by PRWA and a report is expected within the next couple of weeks.

**ADAMSTOWN 2026**:

The Committee will be meeting in the next week or two to discuss long-range plans for the Borough.

The Committee is looking to interview potential candidates for the Committee as well as the Zoning Hearing Board. Several names have been submitted of people who may be an asset, deLyn will reach out to them.

**BUILDING:**

A. McManimen said they will be applying for another grant for the proposed Borough building. R. Good said that it involves having an area that is financially distressed which will be hard to find in the Borough.

There will be a Committee meeting on February 15th. There should be a drawing of the outside of the building at that time.

**COMMUNITY:** None.

**FINANCE:**

Resolution 2024-05 – This Resolution is for the adoption of the newly-revised fees. The Fee Schedule has also been updated to reflect the fees in Resolution 2024-05. The fees which were increased were done so to help cover the Borough's costs to process those specific items.

*Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by J. Johnson-Null and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2024-05 as well as the revised Fee Schedule.*

**FIRE/SAFETY:** None.

Stray Cat Complaints – J. Schmidt said that Chief McKim received a complaint from a property owner regarding someone feeding stray cats in the neighborhood. She did not provide the name or address

of the person feeding the cats. A copy of the ordinance prohibiting feeding stray cats was provided to Chief McKim. The police will follow up.

Vandalism Along Trail - There has been more vandalism along the trail which was reported to Chief McKim.

**IT:** None.

**PERSONNEL:**

Public Works Employee - A. McManimen is looking for a motion to advertise for a PW employee to replace an employee who will be retiring in June.

*Motioned by A. McManimen, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to approve advertising for a PW employee with ad cost NTE $750.*

Pool Manager - A. McManimen is looking for a motion to advertise for a seasonal Pool Manager to work for the 2024 pool season.

*Motioned by A. McManimen, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve advertising for a seasonal Pool Manager for the 2024 season with ad cost NTE $750.*

**RECREATION:**

Committee Resident Member - J. Johnson-Null would like to appoint Tori Motter as a Resident Member of the Rec Committee. She was in charge of swim lessons last season, helped with hiring and had great ideas for the Committee.

*Motioned by J. Johnson-Null, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to appoint T. Motter to the Rec Committee as a Resident Member.*

2024 Pool and Swim Lesson Rates - The Committee reviewed pool membership rates and is looking to make a small increase to some of the rates as well as guest passes. Increases will not affect student/senior memberships, school district student memberships or daily gate fees. These increases are to help cover costs of staffing, pool chemicals, etc., which are required to run the pool. T. Motter, who ran swim lessons last year, provided a summary of what other organizations are charging for 2024 swim lessons. With the requested increase, our rates are still substantially less than other organizations.

*Motioned by J. Johnson-Null, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to approve the increases as presented for the 2024 pool season.*

**ROADS AND BRIDGES:** None.

Resolution 2024-07, Green Light Go Grant - R. Good said we have a grant application with PennDOT for improvements at Rt. 272 and Willow Street which would include sidewalk and handicap improvements, etc. He is not sure where it stands at this point. Another grant is the Green Light Go grant which is a 2-part application. The first part was submitted and PennDOT which required a few changes, and they instructed us to submit the second part. R. Good said we are hopeful to get this grant. The total project is budgeted at approximately $500K. The municipality would be responsible for 20%, while the State would pay 80%. The project will be managed by C. Hess at SDE and will be

bid out. Resolution 2024-07 is required as part of the grant application with a maximum expenditure of $600K for the project.

*Motioned by M. Bansner, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2024-07.*

**WATER/SEWER/MS4:**

207 E. Main Street - This property was recently sold at sheriff's sale. S. Toffy provided their office with the amount due to the Borough which is $1,476.28.

Sanitary Sewer Interceptor Line Rehabilitation Project - This project is the second phase of relining the main 15" pipe that runs from Rt. 272 to the sewer plant. The first phase was completed in December of 2022. As a result of that first phase of rehab, the flows at the WWTP have decreased. This project could be done through CoStars. The cost for this project is approximately $423K.

*Motioned by d. Alumbaugh, seconded by D. Matz and unanimously carried to authorize allowing SDE to move forward with Phase 2.*

Pump Station Elimination Project - This project involves the elimination of the pump station located at the community pool and installing a gravity line which would cross over Rt. 272 and connect into the line at Red Fox Court. The permit was received from DEP to eliminate the pump station. The highway occupancy permit was received last week to bore under Rt. 272. The cost of this project is approximately $435K.

*Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by A. McManimen and unanimously carried to authorize SDE to move forward with the pump station elimination project.*

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS :**

Steely Land Purchase - Resolution 2024-06, Agreement for Sale and Addendum to Agreement to Sale were presented to Council regarding the purchase of the Steely tract of land on the mountain above Chestnut Street which is approximately 5.77 acres (Tax ID #010-06865-0-0000). The cost of the purchase is $29,900. This land purchase will help to preserve the well house.

*Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2024-06 and sign the Agreement for Sale and the Addendum to Agreement to Sale for the purchase of the Steely tract of land for a cost of $29,900.*

**NEW BUSINESS :**

Resolution 2024-04 - This Resolution names SDE's Sewage Enforcement Officers.

*Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by d. Alumbaugh and unanimously carried to adopt Resolution 2024-04.*

Electric Rates - R. Good said that in 2020 we negotiated and purchased electric rates to run through 2025. Our current electric rate is .05468. The current MetEd rate for comparison is .1187. MetEd is used for the traffic light, the majority of streetlights and the well house above Broad Street. PPL's price to compare is .11689, which is almost double what we are currently paying. PPL is used at the

pool, well house 4 and at the WWTP. At the time this fixed electric rate was calculated, it would cost the Borough $34,406 to purchase electric which did not include the distribution or the utility charge. J. Scherer and R. Good are currently looking into options to continue keeping our electric rates at a minimum.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Council went into executive session at 8:16PM to discuss litigation and personnel.

The regular meeting resumed at 8:54PM.

**Adjournment**:

*Motioned by D. Matz, seconded by M. Bansner and unanimously carried to adjourn.*
The meeting ended at 8:55PM.

Attested: _____
Sam Toffy, Adamstown Borough Administrative Secretary