

## **Executive Director's Report – December 8, 2020**

FROM – Ted Lewis

RE: Monthly Report – November / December 2020

- 1. 2021 Budget** – the budget was reviewed and approved by the state as of 12/2 and can be approved at our meeting.
- 2. Connection Fee** – Our connection fee represents the cost to a new applicant to “buy into” our existing infrastructure. The fee is calculated each year by the auditor based on a state formula that includes the current value of the system, debt, etc. Some months ago, I had a conversation with Mike Gianforte (ED Two Rivers) who expressed surprise that our fee was so much lower than theirs. Gianforte explained that in his opinion our calculation should include our percentage of Two River debt (which would increase our fee). I passed Gianforte's comments on to Bob Oliwa who had a different opinion based on his understanding of the law and our past practices. Oliwa and Gianforte talked on 12/2 and are doing additional research on the issue.
- 3. Fort Monmouth Easement** – Kara Kopach of FMERA advised that the Corp of Engineers are insisting on a full field survey of the easement – Steve indicated that the cost for T&M to do this would be \$8,000 plus – given the reality that we must have the easement I don't see any way to avoid the cost.
- 4. Dividend** – We received a dividend of \$2,163 from the NJ Utility Authority Joint Insurance Fund.
- 5. Insurance** – Michelle confirmed that our insurance is adjusted annually to reflect the current value of our equipment and pump stations. The underground mains of the collection system are not covered by insurance. Such coverage is available but has a deductible of \$250,000
- 6. 22 Pearce Ave** – Herb and his crew responded to a blockage and found a damaged lateral – they were able to excavate the line and do the repair in house saving the Authority a substantial repair bill.
- 7. Mall Medical Building** – Following last month's meeting I consulted with the engineer and Herb; we approved the issuance of the building permit and they have begun construction.
- 8. Old Orchard Pump Station** – I have nothing new on this matter this month.
- 9. Police Storage** – I advised the traffic safety office that the board did not have any problems with their proposed storage building pending additional details.
- 10. New Vac Con Truck** – The new truck is back from the dealer and Herb indicates it is working fine.

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**11. Pandemic Conditions** – There has been no change in our operations since last month. The Borough Hall is still closed to the public. The administrative staff and the maintenance crew continue to get done all the work that would be covered under normal conditions.

**12. Sun Eagles Area** – On 11/30 the engineer issued a third review letter indicating a few issues still to be addressed.