

**NORTH HOUGHTON COUNTY WATER AND SEWAGE AUTHORITY**

**DATE: 3-27-23.**

Meeting was called to order by Lehto at 12:01 PM

**ROLL CALL:** Lehto, Bonenfant, LaRochelle, Zubiena, Mukavetz, Primeau

Others Present: Holmes, Heikkila, Bjorn

*Motion , Primeau 2nd LaRochelle to approve the February 2023 minutes as presented; Carried.*

**Phase 1:**

Bjorn gave the board an update on the progress of the Phase 1 Project. Drafters are currently working on the lagoon portion of the design, as well as collection system improvements. Hyrkas and Heikkila had reviewed plan sets and provided feed back and notes on specific sites. UPEA is also working on RD requirements for easements and ROW requirements.

Bjorn presented an invoice in the amount of \$9,336.86 for work completed on the Phase 1 project.

*Motion Coppo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mukavetz to approve the invoice in the amount of \$7,280.50, as presented; carried*

**Florida EB Wetland Mitigation:**

Holmes provided an update to the board. After spring thaw, EGLE will verify site conditions and release the authority from the bond. No change from last month.

**MMP:**

Holmes provided an update to the board. UPEA is currently finishing up the MMP report to be submitted to EGLE prior to 4-1-23. This report will include 2023 sampling locations to account for the dentist office moving into the 6<sup>th</sup> street Strip mall.

*Motion Mukavetz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonenfant to approve the invoice in the amount of \$1426.50, as presented; carried*

**EPA:**

Heikkila presented a Consent for Access to Property from the EPA, for the Pen Gas Site. This form consents access to the EPA for the following purposes; Containing hazardous substances on property, conducting monitoring and sampling activity, preparing for and disposing of hazardous substances, making changes to the property to facilitate removal of hazardous substances, performing other actions to investigate contamination on the property that U.S. EPA may determine necessary, taking any response action to address any release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant which U.S. EPA determines may pose an imminent substantial endangerment to the public health or the environment.

Heikkila informed the board that he has stated to Mr Kelly with the EPA, that NHCWSA is not interested or in a position to fund an environmental cleanup, as the site is not costing anything to remain as is. Kelly has assured NHCWSA that this is a “no cost” endeavor.

*Motion LaRochelle, 2<sup>nd</sup> Zubiena to approve the consent for access, as presented; carried*

**PFAS:**

Heikkila and Holmes updated the board on the ongoing PFAS sampling coordination with MPART. A phone meeting was held with the executive director of MPART. MPART stated they felt there was enough data to move forward with site designation without a second round of verification sampling due to the sampling methods used and the possibilities of cross contamination. Transparency with the public is a major goal with MPART PFAS programs, but Holmes pointed out that this could lead to reporting false positives, if additional testing results are below limits. MPART agreed to designate the NHCWSA with an asterisk stating “pending confirmation testing.”

Heikkila informed the board that new sampling equipment would need to be purchased prior to confirmation sampling, but final costs were not available. Costs are expected to be below board approval limits. It was the consensus of the board to procure the necessary equipment, with no formal resolution presented.

***Gary Dupois:***

Heikkila informed the board that Mr. Dupuis from 56381 Calumet Ave had contacted the authority with a list of issues at his property that he is claiming stemmed from the 2001 project. This list includes a CB in front of his house that is set too low, standing water at times in his backyard, and a wet basement. Heikkila presented pictures provided by Mr Dupuis of these issues. Heikkila informed the board that the CB and Standing water issues will be investigated after the snow melt this spring. Upon discussion, it was the board's opinion that mold is not related to the project from 2001.

***Hyrkas Unpaid Sick Time:***

Zubiena informed that board that a conversation with Hyrkas had led him to looking into past meeting minutes regarding Bucket's retirement and how unpaid sick time as handled. Bucket received a payment, that was approved as a non precedent setting one time payment. Zubiena asked the board for consideration regarding Hyrkas's unpaid sick time. A discussion followed, and it was the board's opinion, that further market research and investigation towards developing a policy was warranted. Primeau suggested that the next Wages and Benefits committee take up this issue and develop a policy for the future.

*Motion Zubiena, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mukavetz to revisit this consideration at next months meeting, and for Heikkila to provide Ken's Sick time balance at next month's meeting; carried*

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

*Motion Mukavetz, 2<sup>nd</sup> LaRochelle to pay monthly bills totaling \$76,256.72 as presented; Carried.*

*Motion Coppo, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bonenfant to adjourn at 1:03 pm; Carried.*

Recorded by,

Submitted by,

Cleve Heikkila

Daniel Zubiena  
Secretary