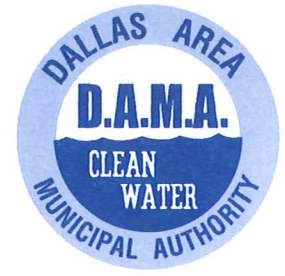


# DALLAS AREA MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

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## MINUTES DALLAS AREA MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY August 10, 2017

**The Regular Board Meeting of the Dallas Area Municipal Authority was held at 7:00 PM, Thursday, August 11, 2017, at the DAMA Administration Building.**

**Board Members present: John Oliver, Tim Carroll, Dave Jenkins, Brent Snowdon, Jeffrey Barrett, and Ryan Doughton.**

**Other officials present: Tom Keiper, Ryan Longfoot, Ed Hann, Susan Lee (DAMA), Benjamin R. Jones, III Esquire, DAMA Solicitor, and Brent Berger of Quad Three Group.**

**Mr. Oliver opened the meeting and took roll. The floor was then opened for Public Comments.**

**Mr. David Balent, a builder / developer, expressed his concern over the cost of DAMA's proposed sewer lateral inspection program. Mr. Keiper stated that any fee charged for the lateral inspection would be by the third party contractor hired by the homeowner to perform the inspection, not by DAMA. An inspection for illegal connections to the building sewer would be performed by DAMA but no fee will be charged. The Board acknowledged Mr. Balent's point on the need to continue to upgrade DAMA's public sewer infrastructure.**

**Mr. Matt Hodorowski, President of the Luzerne County Board of Realtors, noted their opposition to the proposed lateral inspection program. Mr. Hodorowski stated that approximately 365 homes are sold in a given year, and probably 255 are connected to a public sewer line. Mr. Hodorowski cited an impact study that was conducted in Cheltenham Township regarding a similar program that was phased in over an eight year period. Mr. Snowdon stated that DAMA would look into that study. Attorney Jones requested that a copy of the Cheltenham study be provided to him if available.**

**Mr. Ed McCabe, Four Star McCabe Realty, expressed his doubts as to the effectiveness of the lateral inspection program as related to the number of years that it will take to correct the I&I problem based on the amount of homes that are sold annually in DAMA's service area. Mr. Oliver addressed Mr. McCabe's concerns and noted that DAMA is taking additional steps to address I&I in conjunction with the lateral inspection program. Mr. McCabe noted that he is also concerned about how much a lateral repair will cost the homeowner once a problem is detected as the program is only directed at a small portion of**

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homeowners. Mr. Snowdon discussed the need to insure the sewer lateral is functioning properly as part of a home sale inspection.

Mr. John Halbing stressed the importance of conducting the lateral inspection and sump pump removal program as part of DAMA's overall plan to have the sewer connection moratorium lifted, and noted that much of the I&I problems revolve around older homes as opposed to new construction. Mr. Oliver agreed with Mr. Halbing's assessment.

Mr. Joseph Hayer addressed the Board as a homeowner residing in the Back Mountain, and expressed his opposition to the lateral inspection program due to the impact it will have on him when he lists his home for sale.

Ms. Tracy Zarola, realtor with Lewith & Freeman, inquired as to the fee for conducting the lateral inspection program as it pertains to homes that are sold multiple times following the initial lateral inspection and repair. Mr. Snowdon stated that re-inspection of sewer laterals is a matter the Board may wish to look at in greater detail.

Ms. Diane McCabe, from Four Star McCabe Realty, inquired if the Board had looked at the impact of the lateral inspection program to elderly residents. Mr. Oliver inquired if Ms. McCabe had any numbers as to what percent of the Back Mountain is elderly. Ms. McCabe noted that she did not have an actual percentage of elderly residents but was concerned that the elderly would not have the funds available to fix a defective sewer lateral.

The Board and DAMA's Engineer, Brent Berger, noted the need to develop a measured plan to correct DAMA's I&I problem and get DEP to lift the sewer connection moratorium. The lateral inspection program is just one part of that plan.

Ms. Rhea Simms, from Lewith & Freeman, inquired if DAMA was going to hire the third party to perform lateral inspections or if a list of inspectors would be available through DAMA. Mr. Oliver stated that it would be up to the homeowner to hire an independent inspector. Mr. Keiper noted that the inspector must be LACP certified, and a list of certified inspectors would be available from DAMA.

Attorney Jones stated that permission in the form of an ordinance from DAMA's member municipalities must be granted before the lateral inspection program can move forward, and noted that DAMA is presently in litigation with DEP over the moratorium.

Mr. Halbing inquired as to what is the current average wastewater flow at DAMA. Ed Hann stated that the flow typically averages a little over 3 MGD. The Board discussed steps DAMA has taken in the past and continues to take to reduce I&I. Mr. Halbing stated for the record that he believes new home construction is not a major cause of DAMA's I&I problem.



**Mr. Bill Feher inquired if Lehman and Jackson Townships and Harveys Lake Borough, which are connected to DAMA's public sewer system, will also be required to implement a lateral inspection program. Mr. Oliver stated that the proposed inspection program only relates to DAMA's member municipalities at this time. Mr. Keiper stated that Jackson Township and Harveys Lake Borough must do their own Corrective Action Plan (CAP) as it relates to the connection moratorium. Mr. Snowdon noted that DAMA does not have the ability to stop the flow from Harveys Lake in the same manner that WWSA can stop flow from DAMA. Mr. Feher noted that fault is not all at DEP's end, and DAMA and DEP must work together to fix the problem. Mr. Halbing agreed and commented on prior moratoriums that were imposed on Jackson Township and Harveys Lake Borough and the corrective measures that needed to be taken now by DAMA.**

**Ms. Terry August, First Vice President of the Luzerne County Association of Realtors, inquired how DAMA will enforce the lateral inspection program when homes are listed for sale by the owner. Attorney Jones stated that enforcement of the lateral inspection program must be addressed in the common ordinance that would be adopted by each of DAMA's member municipalities, the details of which are still pending.**

**Hearing no further comments, Mr. Oliver and Mr. Snowdon thanked the audience for attending and welcomed them to stay for the remainder of the meeting.**

**No Secretary's report was presented. On a motion by Mr. Doughton, seconded by Mr. Carroll and with a vote of all in favor, the July 13, 2017 regular meeting minutes were approved.**

#### **Treasurer's Report**

**Mr. Snowdon submitted the wastewater division invoices totaling \$587,679.85 for approval. Following a detailed review of the wastewater division check register, a motion was made by Mr. Snowdon, seconded by Mr. Carroll, and passed on a unanimous roll call vote to pay the wastewater division invoices.**

**Mr. Snowdon submitted the solid waste division invoices totaling \$52,088.79 for approval. Following a detailed review of the solid waste division check register, a motion was made by Mr. Snowdon, seconded by Mr. Doughton, and passed on a unanimous roll call vote to pay the solid waste division invoices.**

**Mr. Snowdon reviewed the bank account balances report with the Board and noted that specific budget related questions should be directed to the Executive Director or division supervisors.**

#### **DAMA Committee Report**

**Mr. Jenkins reported that two DAMA employees have completed advanced job training**

and are now eligible to receive and increase in pay, which will require Board approval. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to move Neil Harris from Operator in Training to Operator status, at a pay rate commensurate with the job title. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barrett, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote. Mr. Jenkins made a motion to move Jason Buickus from the position of part-time loader, to a full-time position of the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barrett and approved by a unanimous roll-call vote.

Mr. Jenkins reported that the revised DAMA Employee Manual is now in first draft form, and is ready for review and comment by Mr. Barrett. A final draft version should be ready for review by the entire Board and an attorney specializing in labor law by the September meeting.

#### **Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Keiper reported the MS-4 Pollution Reduction Plan is available for public review at DAMA and at each member municipality's office. The review period lasts for 30 days. A public meeting to review the plan has been scheduled at Kingston Township on September 5, 2017.

Mr. Keiper stated that there was nothing new to report on the DEP public sewer connection moratorium.

#### **Engineer's Report**

Brent Berger reported that a copy of the notice of award for the grinder pump contract has been sent to the successful bidder. We are still awaiting DEP planning division's review of the planning module and the project will proceed as soon as that is complete.

#### **Solicitor's Report**

Attorney Jones reported that he and Mr. Keiper will attend the Monday evening work session at Dallas Borough regarding adoption of the lateral inspection ordinance. Attorney Jones stated that there is nothing new to report regarding other pending legal matters.

#### **Old Business**

Mr. Keiper reported that he and Brent Berger have looked into installing larger pumps at DAMA's main pumping station, or as an alternative, installing a pumping station at the halfway point of DAMA's force main to WVSA. The installation of a second pumping station appears to be the better option, however, a right-of-way must first be secured. Mr. Keiper noted that the pumping station would allow DAMA to pump more flow to WVSA without the need to install a new force main under the Susquehanna River. The Board discussed the pump station proposal, and noted that DAMA would need to receive additional flow capacity from WVSA as consideration for the river crossing project.



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**Mr. Oliver asked if the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) had been submitted to DEP. Mr. Keiper and Mr. Berger agreed that DAMA's position is no CAP is required. Mr. Keiper stated that a larger furnace truck for use with the I&I program will be rented for one month with an option to purchase if it proves satisfactory.**

**New Business**

**Mr. Keiper discussed the current \$3.00 per cubic yard price that DAMA is charging for unscreened compost, and noted that there is a market for screened compost which could be sold by DAMA for \$8.00 per cubic yard. Mr. Snowdon recommended allowing a price reduction for the bulk sale of screened compost. A motion was made by Mr. Carroll, seconded by Mr. Snowdon, and passed by a unanimous roll call vote to sell screened compost for \$8.00 per cubic yard with the option to reduce the price slightly for bulk sales.**

**Mr. Keiper reported that DAMA has received an offer of \$32,000. each for the two used MSW trucks that are currently for sale. The previous offer received was \$20,000. each. A motion was made by Mr. Doughton, seconded by Mr. Carroll, and approved by a unanimous roll call vote to authorize the MSW division truck sale at \$32,000. each.**

**Supervisors Report**

**Ryan Longfoot reported DAMA has received a grant disbursement of \$218,459.64 as reimbursement for the trommel screen and recycling truck purchase.**

**Ryan Longfoot reported that the E-recycling event was held, and 137 vehicles were received over a 3 hour period which in turn filled 4 box trucks with electronics for recycling. Mr. Keiper noted that Lehman Township may wish to participate in the E-recycling event next year.**

**Ed Hann reported that the larger furnace truck for I&I use, as previously discussed, should be at DAMA by next Friday.**

**No additional business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM at which time the Board convened to an Executive Session.**

**Respectfully submitted:**

**David Jenkins, Secretary  
Dallas Area Municipal Authority**