

**Military Installation Remediation and
Infrastructure Authority (“MIRIA”)
Board Meeting Minutes
March 06, 2020**

In attendance:

BOARD:

Todd Stephens, Chair
W. William Whiteside, Vice Chair
Thomas Panzer, Secretary
Tara Conner-Hallston
Scott DeRosa
Theresa Harmon
Gregory Nesbitt

STAFF:

William Gildea-Walker, Executive Director
Larry Burns, Treasurer & Deputy Director
Mary Eberle, Esq., Solicitor

Mr. Stephens opened the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance at 9:00 AM in the Horsham Township Building, 1025 Horsham Road, Horsham, PA.

Mr. Stephens acknowledged State Representative Megan Schroeder in the audience and thanked her for her help in support with the passage of PA 2019 ACT 101.

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any question or comments from the audience.

Mr. Dan Golden of Hatboro asked about the process of selecting designated parcels in the MIRIA zone. Ms. Eberle discussed PA 2019 ACT 101 and that parcels that are part of the Qualified Former Military Installation were by statute included, that parcels in the township where restrictions on development were included, and that MIRIA could designated up to 100 acres of parcels deemed distressed.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the February 6, 2020 meeting. Mr. DeRosa motioned to approve the minutes to the February 6 board meeting. Mr. Whiteside seconded. All were in favor and the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens asked if the Executive Director had a report. Mr. Gildea-Walker reviewed the MIRIA March 6, 2020 board presentation power point slides discussing the past timeline of the act approval and MIRIA’s activities to date. He confirmed productive meetings with PA Revenue on February 13 and area water providers on February 20th. He further reviewed the critical timeline including the completion and submission of the Designated Authority application with PA

Revenue the week of March 9th, the devising of the MIRIA Municipal and Municipal Authority grant guidelines and forms in the following weeks, outreach efforts to parcel owners and businesses operating on MIRIA zone parcels, receipt by MIRIA of grant applications and local effort amounts by May 15th, parcel online reporting with a secure PA Revenue website July 1 to August 30th, confirmation of available funding December 1, and the approval of the 2021 Budget and of grant awards at the MIRIA December board meeting. Mr. Gildea-Walker requested Mr. Burns discuss further the selection of parcels. Mr. Burns continued to discuss the power point presentation and the parcels involved with the Qualified Former Military Installation, parcel subject to development restrictions, which were Air Installation Compatible Use Zone (“AICUZ”) parcels and the Airport Crash and Noise Overlay District (“ACNOD”) parcels. Mr. Burns also discussed the “designated” parcels, which could be up to 100 acres and deemed “deteriorated” by PA 2019 ACT 101. Deteriorated could mean vacant, distressed, undervalued or underutilized and did include parcels adjacent to deteriorated parcels. At this point, there appeared to be 13 parcels of QFMI for a total of about 870 acres, 5 AICUZ parcels for about 208 acres, 25 ACNOD parcels for a total of about 613 acres and designated parcels remain under review and should be finalized in the coming week. The total MIRIA zone was expected to be 50 or more parcels and just under 1,800 acres. Mr. Burns then spoke to the PA Revenue Designated Authority application and efforts to document each parcel, provide various information including photos, and other supporting documentation. Once submitted, PA Revenue then has 60 days to review. Mr. Burns indicated that through the review process, MIRIA would have the opportunity to cure any deficiencies in the application.

Mr. Burns then spoke to the MIRIA Municipal and Municipal Authority grant program that was in formation. The program would be a mechanism for funding eligible projects. The only eligible applicants are municipalities or municipal authorities. Mr. Walker further noted that individual customers of water authorities would not be eligible applicants for MIRIA grants, but that the water authorities would be working on programs to reimburse their customers for surcharges or for connections to public water by impacted private well owners. Mr. Burns went on to discuss that state funding made available in December would first pay MIRIA operating costs, both for 2020 and for 2021, and then funds would be available to municipal water authorities to reimburse for surcharges, for remediation costs, and for the cost of connection of impacted private well owners. Ms Eberle made note that the program is a “reimbursement” program and that staff was waiting on PA Revenue for some clarification on a number of questions. Mr. Burns confirmed that once MIRIA operations were paid for, and amounts to municipal water authorities for surcharge reimbursement to it and its rate payors, and public water connection costs for impacted well owners was satisfied, then available state revenue funds could be used for infrastructure and economic development costs and other authorized purposes. Mr. Stephens thanked Mr. Gildea-Walker and Mr. Burns for their presentation.

Mr. Stephens asked if Ms. Eberle had a Solicitors report. Ms. Eberle confirmed that she was working to support Mr. Gildea-Walker and Mr. Burns in their various efforts, as they complete

and submit the Designated Authority application to PA Revenue, as they engage municipal water authorities and put together guidelines and forms for the MIRIA Municipal and Municipal Authority grant program.

Mr. Stephens expressed his thanks to Ms. Eberle, and Mr. Gildea-Walker and Mr. Burns for their efforts.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the consideration of a resolution to approve and authorize MIRIA staff to complete and submit a Military Installation Remediation Program, Designated Authority Application with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue. Mr. Nesbit moved to approve MIRIA Resolution No. 2020-3 which authorizes MIRIA staff to complete and submit a Military Installation Remediation Program, Designated Authority Application with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Revenue. Mr. Whiteside seconded. Mr. Gildea Walker confirmed it was a roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye

Mr. DeRosa – Aye

Ms. Harmon – Aye

Mr. Nesbitt – Aye

Mr. Panzer – Aye

Mr. Whiteside – Aye

Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Panzer commented on the great efforts and all the work that MIRIA staff has done.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding MIRIA Resolution No. 2020-4 authorizing MIRIA to enter into a \$200,000 line of credit with Horsham Township. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed that at last board, the MIRIA's budget was approved and that to fund the MIRIA operation a line of credit of \$200,000 was necessary. Mr. Panzer moved to approve MIRIA Resolution NO. 2020-4 which authorizes the execution of a \$200,000 line of credit with Horsham Township to fund 2020 MIRIA operations. Mr. Whiteside seconded. Mr. Gildea Walker confirmed it was a roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye

Mr. DeRosa – Aye

Ms. Harmon – Aye

Mr. Nesbitt – Aye

Mr. Panzer – Aye

Mr. Whiteside – Aye

Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens inquired if there was any other business. Mr. Nesbitt complimented MIRIA staff for their herculean efforts to date. He questioned however that with the tight timelines and additional efforts that were required whether the board should consider seeking the help of an outside marketing group to help with parcel owner and operating business outreach so that we could help and improve the chances of success in the early start up years of the MIRIA program. Based on some general discussion on the topic, Mr. Nesbitt made a motion to approve and authorize MIRIA staff to research the concept with potential outside agencies and engage if possible, a marketing firm that would support MIRIA staff with parcel owner and operating business outreach. Mr. DeRosa Seconded. Mr. Gildea Walker confirmed it was a roll-call vote.

Ms. Conner-Hallston – Aye

Mr. DeRosa – Aye

Ms. Harmon – Aye

Mr. Nesbitt – Aye

Mr. Panzer – Aye

Mr. Whiteside – Aye

Mr. Stephens – Aye

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Stephens reminded all that the next MIRIA board meeting was to be held on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 9:00 am.

With no other business, Mr. Stephens adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:39am.

/s/

Thomas Panzer, Secretary