

**Military Installation Remediation and
Infrastructure Authority (“MIRIA”)
Board Meeting Minutes
May 8, 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
Mary Eberle, Esq., Solicitor
Larry Burns, Treasurer

Absent:

To ensure public safety during the COVID-19 crisis, the May 8, 2020 board meeting of MIRIA was held as an audio and video conference, and was duly advertised as such on Friday, May 1st. Public comment was available before and during the meeting by email to Horsham@horsham.org.

Mr. Stephens opened the meeting with a Pledge of Allegiance at 9:04 AM.

Mr. Stephens asked if there were any question or comments from the audience. There were none.

Mr. Stephens asked for the will of the board regarding the April 3, 2020 meeting minutes. Mr. Nesbitt motioned to approve the minutes of the April 3rd 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 with the assistance of a power point presentation reviewed recent events and the timing of future MIRIA efforts. He reminded that the board approved the MIRIA Grant guidelines and the appointment of MIRIA’s 2020 auditor at our last board meeting. He confirmed that on April 17th the PA Department of Revenue conditionally approved MIRIA’s designated authority application, but rejected 5 designated parcels. MIRIA appealed 2 of those rejections, and PA Revenue reversed itself and accepted 250 Gibraltar Road and rejected for a 2nd time 102 Witmer Road. Revenue afforded MIRIA to submit substituted parcels by May 1st, and on April 30th 7 substituted parcels totaling 52.94 acres were submitted to PA Revenue. With this submission, total designated parcels would total 98.55 acres, if all are approved. Assuming they are, the MIRIA Zone would now total 58 parcels with total acreage of about 1,805 acres. The power point presentation showed the 14

designated parcels were shown by property owner, address and acreage and included parcels owned by the Chapman Auto Group, Tinius Olsen, Workspace Property Trust, and Kimco Horsham to name a few. Mr. Gildea-Walker further noted that MIRIA grant applications with resolutions and local effort checks were due by May 15th from water providers and municipalities. MIRIA staff had had 3 meetings with local water providers and Mary Eberle and Larry Burns have had continue discussions with their solicitors and staff regarding various aspects of the grant program.

By June 1st, MIRIA needs to submit to PA Revenue the certification of local effort, a MIRIA Zone business listing and a certification of transfer tax from the Montgomery County Recorder of Deeds. Staff is active and working toward those efforts. On July 1st, a secure PA Revenue website will go live, and will serve for parcel owners and businesses on designated parcels as a portal for their reporting of PA State Taxes. Parcel reports are required to be inputted between July 1 and August 31st. With some board meetings through the fall, the next key date is December 1st when PA Revenue will certify available funds, with a transfer to our accounts in mid-month. On December 4, there's a MIRIA board meeting where we expect final approval of grants and submission to the board of a 2021 budget. Mr. Gildea-Walker complimented the on-going work of Mary Eberle and Larry Burns in getting the MIRIA up and running.

Mr. Stephens asked if Ms. Eberle had a Solicitors report. Ms. Eberle confirmed she had been in touch with the solicitors of the various water providers and they all had different issues and motivations pertaining to the MIRIA grant program. She worked through with them the legal issues of the program; local efforts funds required by the statute as well as the available alternative of taking a MIRIA Quick Response Grant.

Mr. Stephens inquired if there were bills or communications. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed none at this time.

Mr. Stephens confirmed under new business, there was the consideration of a compliance consultant. Mr. Burns noted that at the March board meeting, staff was tasked with seeking out a compliance consultant that could assist staff in engaging MIRIA Zone parcel owners and businesses, intending to maximize participation and available PA State Revenue funding. Staff had interacted with the Lancaster CRIZ and subsequently had discussions with their compliance consultant, Deana Zosky. Randy Patterson, Executive Director of the Lancaster CRIZ highly regarded Ms. Zosky, and the CRIZ in January 2020 after a 3-year contract, renewed Ms. Zosky and her firm FourScore, LLC for an additional 5 years, increasing the annual contract amount from \$150,000 to \$175,000. Mr. Burns confirmed the Lancaster CRIZ zone is much different than MIRIA's as they have over 500 parcel owners and businesses to engage. In Horsham, the number of parcel owners and businesses is less than 100. Further, Ms. Zosky is also involved in analysis of project funding in the CRIZ, and for MIRIA, our project funding is done through our grant program, which will remain solely a function of staff. Mr. Burns referred to biographical

information in the package, that Ms Zosky is a CPA, has worked with the Allentown NIZ and Lancaster CRIZ and has helped hundreds of parcel and business owners navigate the PA Revenue secure website portal in reporting PA taxes. Mr. Stephens asked if there was a motion. Mr. Whiteside made a motion, and then with the help of the solicitor, rephrased the motion to authorize staff to enter into an agreement with FourScore LLC, under terms substantially similar to those set forth in the proposal, but subject to approval of the staff and Solicitor as to the terms of the final agreement. Mr. DeRosa seconded. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed this 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 asked for the will of the board regarding the consideration of Resolution #2020-5, authorizing a local depository. Mr. Burns noted that at the February board meeting, the board adopted resolution #2020-2 which authorized a depository account at Pennsylvania Local Government Investment Trust (“PLGIT”). He confirmed that an account had been opened but as PLGIT as no local branch locations, staff would prefer to have the option of making deposits at a teller’s window rather than through the mail and a lockbox. Mr. Stephens asked for a motion. Mr. Whiteside made a motion to approved Resolution 2020-5 authorizing an additional depository. Mr. Panzer seconded. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed this 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 asked for the will of the board in consideration of Resolution #2020-6 authorizing MIRIA to certify local effort funds to PA Revenue for the 2020 Military Installation Remediation Program. Mr. Gildea-Walker noted that as discussed earlier, MIRIA is required prior to June 1st

to certify local effort funds to PA Revenue as part of the statutory process, that is one of the two processes for determining the amount of available PA Tax Revenue that could be available to MIRIA. Mr. Stephens asked for a motion. Mr. Nesbitt motioned to approved Resolution #2020-6 authorizing MIRIA to certify local efforts funds to PA Revenue available for the 2020 Military Installation Remediation program. Mr. Whiteside seconded. Mr. Gildea-Walker confirmed this 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. Burns advised that no questions or comments were made by the public prior to or during the meeting, as advised by Horsham Township Assistant Manager Dennis Hagerty who was monitoring the horsham@horsham.org email address.

Mr. Stephens inquired if there was any other business. There was none.

Mr. Stephens reminded all that the next MIRIA board meeting was to be held on Friday, June 6th, 2020 at 9:00 am. It is anticipated that that meeting may be a video conference meeting as well.

With no other business, Mr. Stephens adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:37am.

/S/

Thomas Panzer, Secretary