

## **REGULAR MEETING**

**April 15, 2025**

**6:00 P.M.**

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, April 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm at the Municipal Authority Administrative Building, 462 South Fourth Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

### The following were in attendance:

Norman Koch, Chairman  
Thomas McBryan, Vice Chairman  
Larry Welfer, Board Member  
Thomas Krieger, Board Member, via phone  
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer  
Jerome Alex, Board Member  
Jason Neidig, General Manager  
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager  
Patrick Bennett, Flood Dept Manager  
Matt Billman, Wastewater Department Manager  
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor  
Patrick Burke, Engineer, via phone  
Jennifer Kremer, Recording Secretary

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order and also led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **PUBLIC DISCUSSION**

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

-Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from March 18, 2025. There being no corrections on motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Jerome Alex, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

### **ELECTRICITY REVIEW**

Jason introduced Mike Stoller from Mantis Innovation to review his proposal regarding electricity auctions that took place. Mike explained all the options and pricing, and the Board chose to accept the proposal for 48 months, which saves half a penny or \$18 K / year over the term of the contract. The new partial rate would be .05690 Kwh for changing from a fixed to a transmission capacity. A motion was made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Dave Persing to accept this proposal and these rates and terms. Motion carried.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Jason reviewed the new setup of the financial reports. After some discussion, it was motioned by Jerome Alex, seconded by Tom McBryan, to table the new format until more discussion could be had with Cory, who was not present at the meeting.

## **WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Brian reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. He relayed information regarding new services being installed at various sites throughout the City, including Wawa.

Next Brian explained that the saddle on the 24-inch pipe that leaves the water plant was rotted away. The department drained both clarifiers to clean and inspect them. Everything was in good condition.

Brian reported that he, Derrick, and Bob all attended the PRWA conference in State College from March 24-27. Josh, Jamison and Derrick also attended a class in State College on March 21 put on by LB Water discussing unaccounted for water.

Brian then gave an update regarding the Packer Street project. He and Rich met with Entech to go over the designs of the potholed gas lines to get elevations. They want to replace a 2" galvanized line on Packer Street between Fifth Street and Creamer Avenue.

Brian mentioned that a few employees volunteered their time to help with the Little Shamokin Creek cleanup, and also that the Water Department assisted the office staff with doing red tags and shut offs.

## **FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Pat started reviewing his report, stating that he is using Jeff Lewis' old report style as a jumping off point for his new Flood report. He reviewed all the ongoing items from Jeff's report, updating that he is still trying to work with the Senators' offices to obtain grant funds for the Sill replacement at closure #1, the Flood water mitigation project, and also the Toe Drain project funding. The main update was that on April 3, 2025, the Flood Control Operations Center received a call from Senator Fetterman's office that as of March 14, Congress passed a CR (Continuing Resolution) to keep the government open for the rest of the fiscal year for 2025. However, unfortunately, the CR did not include any funding for Congressional Directed spending requests, so the Authority will not be receiving any of the funding for the Flood Mitigation Project.

Pat touched on the fact that the BRIC grant application had been submitted by Entech on time, but that the program then got cancelled by President Trump's administration. No direction has been given by FEMA as to whether or not this program will be brought back. As of now, there is no funding from this grant.

Finally, Pat reported that they have an inspection coming up with ACOE on April 24<sup>th</sup>, and also that power poles will be replaced on Reagan Street beginning May 13, 2025.

## **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Jason reported that there was no update for the City's proposed walkway on top of the levee. He next remarked that he worked with GES, who handles the Flood Website, and they have resolved the issues regarding the telemetry readings and access credentials.

Jason then thanked all the volunteers for the Little Shamokin Creek cleanup. He noted a lot of the boy scouts provided help and said it was a good turnout for this event, as well as the River Cleanup, which Pat Bennett and his family attended.

Jason then reported that the repairs to the trailer that was damaged recently totaled almost \$5000, and the claim was with the insurance company now.

Jason and Jenn will be attending a conference on Medical Marijuana in the workplace on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jason then said that the managers' evaluations are due by the end of the month.

Jason met with Derrick Backer of the City regarding a grant through Congressman Dan Meuser's office that is open-ended, with no set dollar amount. The goal is more infrastructure related, so the Authority is pitching replacing the main water line from the river to the plant for 23 million.

He then presented some articles regarding fluoride in water systems, just for informational purposes.

Lastly, Jason received several resumes for the Recording Secretary position and he provided an overview of the applications. Several would be good potential hires. One applicant, Kathy Paige, stood out from the rest with her experience, seemed to be a good fit for the position, and he asked for a motion to hire her. On motion made by Tom McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to hire Kathy Paige for the position at a salary of \$150 / meeting beginning with the Board Meeting on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Motion carried.

On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

## **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Pat Burke, via phone, reviewed his submitted report. Jason handed out some information regarding some proposed additions to the Packer Street project involving stormwater. Discussion ensued regarding pricing and options. With the increased scope of work and a looming timeline, it was requested by Entech that the board make a final decision on the Scope of the project. The deadline for permitting for NPDES to make application is next week. The Board requested that Pat put together an entire bid packet with at least two alternatives, so they can make an informed decision regarding the direction and cost of the project. This was approved on a motion made by Jerome Alex, seconded by Tom McBryan. So moved.

Next Pat discussed the permitting process for the Sill replacement project. He is concerned that the timeline will not be met due to Norfolk Southern holding up the process due to their own backlog and requests for information. They require 6 submissions for their review. The Board asked Pat Bennett to contact someone at Norfolk Southern to see if we can speed up this process in some way. Pat Burke is also to ask Schnabel to prepare a proposal not to exceed \$25K for submissions of all Norfolk Southern's requests. The proposal should be presented at the next board meeting.

The other items on Pat's report were previously discussed or had no board action required.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Kerstetter reviewed his report stating that he, Jason and Jenn had a second meeting with our labor attorneys regarding the game plan for an employee with a marijuana card that wants to give it up. He received advice contrary to the first meeting, and after discussion, feels this new approach with writing a letter the employee needs to sign is the way to go. As well as the employee submitting to drug and alcohol testing with a negative result being required before he can enter into a safety-sensitive position. The drafted letter was included in the board packet for board review. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to approve the employee letter. So moved.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the Solicitor's Report as presented. Motion carried.

### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

A discussion was held regarding the funding commitment letter for the BRIC grant being submitted for the Toe Drain project. On a motion made by Tom McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was voted to allow Jason to sign the letter. Motion carried.

Another discussion was then started regarding the approval of the Keystone Engineering proposal for the Wastewater SCADA system. Matt sent out the updated Keystone proposal for review before the meeting, and asked for a vote to approve the proposal. On motion by Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the Keystone proposal.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Jerome Alex stated that Mike Thomas from Meckteck would be a good resource to use when trying to revise ordinances and codes, as well as fast-tracking work, regarding greasetraps.

### **COMMENTS**

None.

The list of expenditures from April 2 – April 15, 2025 was presented for payment. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tom McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Chairman

Approved:

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Solicitor