

REGULAR MEETING

August 20, 2024

7:00 o'clock, P.M.

The regular meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at 7:00 o'clock, P.M. at the Municipal Authority Administrative Building, 462 South Fourth Street, Sunbury, Pennsylvania.

The following were in attendance:

Norman Koch, Chairman

Larry Welfer

Cory Fasold

David Persing

Tom McBryan

Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance

Jason Neidig, Manager

Brian Michaels, Water Department

Jeff Lewis, Flood Department Manager

Pat Burke, Engineer (via phone)

Michael Balducci, Solicitor

Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary

Mr. Koch called the meeting to order and Mr. Bittner led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was no one present for public discussion.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 16, 2024 and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tre Bittner, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Jason next reviewed the financial reports. Jason said there was nothing that stands out on the reports. Mr. McBryan reviewed the investment sheet and noted there is a 20 year bond maturing at the end of the month and recommended it be reinvested in another 20 year bond. On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Dave Persing, the Financial Reports were accepted. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian Michaels reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting.

Erik DePhillips started on August 12th and is working out well.

Personnel installed a 2-inch meter pit for the new McDonalds. Brian said he is still waiting to hear back from the State on the State Permit to run the new 2-inch line from the main to the meter pit.

Personnel also installed a new 8-inch valve on Susquehanna Avenue & Julia Street. This was done so personnel could shut the water off on Susquehanna Avenue to tie into the new main for the Susquehanna Avenue project. There were about 160 properties off when this was done and the places affected were on a boil advisory from August 7th to August 9th. G & R Charles is hooking the water services up in the last block of the Phase 1 project.

Matt Seeker from Water Service Professionals was at the plant on August 14th to collect the filter media samples and train the Water Department staff on filter bed evaluation activities.

Brian said he is still working on pursuing to replace the sluice gates at the dam by the end of the year.

Once the dam is lowered Brian hopes to get out to the river intake to inspect it better to see what needs to be done.

Department staff helped the office with red tags and shut offs.

Brian will ask Entech to review the USG Services tank inspections and give their opinion of the report.

FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeff reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting.

Jeff gave an update on Grant applications he submitted. There is nothing new on the status of the BRIC Grant. PEMA has stated that the notice of award of the 2023 FMA Grant would be announced in August or September.

Jeff received an email from Senator Casey's aide that appropriations requested thru Senators Casey & Fetterman were denied because the Authority "does not exist". He said this has now been taken care of. He feels this happened because of the rumor that the Authority was going to be sold.

The LSA Statewide Grant is still up in the air.

DCNR was here on August 13th to look at the area for the proposed walking path that would connect the Marina to the Rails to Trails that starts at the Water Plant. The proposed path would follow the levee on the top and along the flood wall to a foot bridge that would utilize existing abandoned railroad abutments and cross the river at the North Front Street underpass to the Marina. Jeff said DCNR stated that this is a perfect project and could easily be funded. Jeff said he believes the City is moving forward with conceptual drawings and a cost factor.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported Lee Zeger from CES Engineering advised him he is not going to do the engineering for the Authority's portion of the Packer Street Project.

He said Lee is pushing back because there is no money to pay for engineering. Jeff and Tom McBryan were both told Lee was doing a quote for the engineering.

Jason is working with PennDOT on the South Second Street project. He will be meeting with Jeff and Matt to review and discuss the project. Entech is going to review flow rates and pipe sizes.

Jason is working with Managers on capital budgets, He is working on the employee budget and requested a meeting with the Budget, Wage and Salary Committees in the next two weeks. He will be meeting with Cory to discuss changing names of categories.

Jason talked with Steve Welker about digouts. There will be substantial repairs. He obtained a quote from Big Rock and will be getting a quote from G & R Charles too. Attorney Balducci said there is an Agreement with the City that once the Authority puts in a catch basin the City will take care of it. Steve Welker is asking the Authority to pay half the cost. Mr. McBryan said that Mr. Welker should be given a copy of the Agreement and told that he should follow it. Tom asked for a copy of the Agreement and he will take it to Councilman Eister.

There is a PMAA workshop online on August 28th. He said the PMAA Convention is coming up soon.

Jason passed out a rate comparison of other Authorities. He also pointed out the Authority magazine has a good article on privatization.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat said Entech prepared a cost estimate for the Water Department effluent discharge relocation study. Entech proposes to update the feasibility study with a letter report containing conceptual plans of the relocated outfall and preliminary construction cost estimate. Entech's cost for the study is \$9,500. Following discussion, on motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to go ahead with the study at a cost of \$9,500. Motion carried.

Entech prepared a task order proposal to design and submit the necessary permit applications to DEP for a liquid fluoride system in the amount of \$28,100. Cory asked the purpose of switching to liquid and was told it was a safety issue and with liquid the chemical company fills the tank and Authority personnel won't have anything to do with it. Mr. McBryan said he does not think it is worth the cost to change from powder to liquid. Discussion followed. Mr. Fasold said it was his opinion that powder has worked for 60 years so why spend the money. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to stay with powder fluoride and abandon the idea of changing to liquid. Motion carried.

Pat will be meeting with Schnabel Engineering next week to further discuss the proposed toe drain replacement project.

Pat received a proposal from Schnabel Engineering for the Sill replacement in the amount of \$25,000 if the Authority contracts directly with

Schnabel or it can be run through the Master Service Agreement with Entech but then it will be marked up 10%.

Pat discussed a call Entech received from Authority staff during a turbidity spike experienced at the Water Department. He said the Water Department personnel handled the situation very well.

Mr. McBryan asked if Pat will be able to recommend an outfit to inspect the river intake when the dam is down. Pat wants to look at it first when the dam comes down. He said a technical diver from Atlantic Diving would be doing the actual inspection. He said they have the knowledge to come up with an assessment.

Pat said Tory of his office said the LSA Grant is opening up in September and she thinks a new flush truck would be covered by the Grant.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci said he met with Attorney Kerstetter today to review the history of the Authority and its different departments. At their next meeting Attorney Balducci will be reviewing the major Agreements in each department.

The employee handbook is in the hands of Jason and Jenn.

Attorney Balducci said the Authority received an offer from PennDot of \$500 for PennDOT's use of a small area of .15 acres as a temporary construction easement. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing it was moved to accept the offer of \$500 and to further authorize Jason Neidig and the proper officers to sign the Temporary Construction Easement. Motion carried.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to accept the Solicitor's Report. Motion carried.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. McBryan said while starting work on the budgets Jason should be aware of the Packer Street project because the Authority can't be caught with missing costs on the project.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

The list of expenditures from August 7, 2024 to August 20, 2024 was presented for payment. On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Dave Persing, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor