

REGULAR MEETING

February 18, 2025

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, February 18, 2025, at 7:00 o'clock, 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
Cory Fasold, Secretary / Treasurer
Jerome Alex, Board Member
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Jennifer Kremer, Recording Secretary

Mr. Koch called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm, and Mr. Alex led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Koch stated that an executive session was held from 5:00-7:30 pm prior to the start of the regular meeting regarding personnel issues.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Mr. Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from January 21, 2025. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Thomas McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. He stated there were 18 leaks in the last two months. He reviewed a list of the locations of the leaks and breaks. He then thanked his crew and also the Sewer Department crew members for their hard work and willingness to come in during the cold snap for all of the repair work.

Next Brian reported that Motortech came back in to install the mechanical seal that went out. Water department members then installed a new 12-inch check valve that had gone bad. The River

Plant has been working good since these fixes have been put in place. The Flood Department guys were a very big help with installing the check valve.

Brian reported that Filter Evaluations occurred during the week of February 10th. They are required by the state every quarter.

Department staff also helped the Office with red tags this month.

Brian also mentioned that they will try to install the Butterfly Valve in the plant sometime in March.

FLOOD MANAGER'S REPORT

Jeff sent a report in but was not present for the meeting, as he retired effective February 17, 2025. Jason reviewed Jeff's report. The Flood Closure #1 Sill replacement grant funds from Marcellus Shale Fund must be used by June of 2027. Schnabel and Entech are working with the railroad to get this project started quickly and at a more reasonable engineering cost. Jason to pull Pat and Entech into this to determine what is next.

The Senate Appropriations Committee sent an email stating that the appropriations bill draft includes a line item for \$748,000 for the City of Sunbury and the Municipal Authority's flood wall project. Our matching funds would be around \$249,310.

The LSA Statewide grant was approved for \$400,000 for Toe Drains from Race Street to Packer Street and does not require a match. This grant must be used before June 2027.

There is a Levee Drain that runs parallel with Shikellamy Avenue that crosses private property owned by John Smerlick. Jeff contacted Joel Wiest to find the right-of-way for the 18" pipe and ditch line that runs through the property.

Jeff stated at the end of his report that Heath and Randy are excellent employees and can fulfill most requirements while maintaining the Flood system until Jeff's replacement is found, and that he is available to assist also.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported that DIR has ordered equipment for the security system and began installation. They have targeted February 28th as the completion date for the project.

Jason then thanked Todd for his work on the easement for the South Second Street project. The easement for the lower parking area is now in place.

Jason met with City officials to discuss the Packer Street project from the railroad tracks to Kreamer Avenue. Discussion ensued regarding prevailing wage vs maintenance projects. Todd to do some research on options and case law.

Jason reported he is midway through classes for obtaining his Wastewater Operator's license with testing happening in late March.

He then reported that the Dippels of 141 N Sixth Street have signed the agreement with SMA to install their check valve and drain plug.

Jason next stated he received a right-to-know request from Mark Brooks regarding information on collective bargaining agreements and correspondence or other communications to or from any private corporation or other entity in any way concerning the potential or proposed sale of any public utility owned or controlled by the local agency to such private entity. Jason has filed a 30-day extension in order to gather the information.

Cory then talked about the financial reports he and Jason have been working on recently regarding depreciation and capital improvements. He explained how the reports would now look and how they are read. He mentioned that Carin is moving money into our PLGIT accounts when available.

Jason lastly mentioned that Board Member training is being offered through PMAA and if anyone wanted to attend, they were welcome. He provided a flyer with details to the Board.

Jason then started a discussion on the purchase of a new John Deere tractor to replace the Massey Ferguson tractor in the Flood Department. On motion made by Tom Krieger, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to purchase the new John Deere tractor from LandPro in Watsontown. Cory, Tom Krieger, Jerome and Dave Persing all voted Aye. Tom McBryan and Larry Welfer voted nay. Motion carried.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to accept the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke was not present at the meeting, so Jason reviewed his submitted report. Jason reviewed Pat's report which showed there was no action required by the Board for Entech's items at this time.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter reviewed his report and said as previously stated the Dippel's signed the agreement he drafted. Also, the easement for Weis and the Second Street project is completed.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A discussion was then started by Jerome Alex regarding adding email addresses and cell phones for all Board members for completing board business. Information was provided regarding costs for these items which would be approximately \$335.16 annually for 7 email addresses, and \$4,078.20 annually for cell phones. Discussion ensued. Attorney Kerstetter was tasked with researching both topics and bringing information back to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory Fasold began a discussion regarding Jeff Lewis' health insurance termination, including questions regarding COBRA. He requested information from the office for a better understanding of the process/policy. He stated the Board may want to look at these processes for updating in the future.

Cory also stated that the Flood Manager Position needs to be filled. Jason said two current employees have expressed some interest in the position, and also that several applications have been received that need to be reviewed.

Next, a discussion ensued regarding an employee that was hired with the expectation from his job description that he obtain his CDL within 6 months of becoming employed. After he was hired, the policy was changed by the Board. The employee would like to complete his CDL and feels the Authority should pay for it since it was required at his time of hire. The Board agrees. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Jerome Alex, it was moved to pay for the CDL of employee Jacob Peteraf. Motion carried.

COMMENTS

None.

The list of expenditures from February 5, 2025 through February 17, was presented for payment. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

The board then went into an Executive Session at 9:15 pm to discuss personnel issue.

Executive Session ended at 10:26 pm.

Upon returning to regular session, the board confirmed no further discussion was needed.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor