

## REGULAR MEETING

January 16, 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, January 16, 2024 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  
Tre Bittner, Secretary / Treasurer  
David Persing, Assistance Secretary / Treasurer  
Larry Welfer, Board Member  
Thomas Krieger, Board Member  
Cory Fasold, Board Member  
Jason Neidig, General Manager  
Jeffrey Lewis, Flood Department Manager  
Michael Balducci, Solicitor  
Jennifer Kremer, Acting Recording Secretary  
Josh Brosious, Mayor

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

Mr. Koch introduced Mayor Brosious and turned the meeting over to him to give the oath of office, as follows, to Thomas McBryan and Norman Koch, each for a five-year term as a member of the Board, and Cory Fasold for a one-year term on the Board to complete Charles Schlegel's term.

*I, Norman Koch, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.*

*I, Cory Fasold, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.*

*I, Thomas McBryan, do solemnly swear that I will support, obey, and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the Commonwealth and that I will discharge the duties of my office with fidelity.*

Mayor Brosious then exited the meeting.

Chairman Koch turned the meeting over to Attorney Balducci to ask for recommendations and nominations on Officer Selections. The committee of Larry Welfer, Tre Bittner and David Persing named their recommendations as follows: Norman Koch for Chairman, Thomas McBryan for Vice Chairman, Tre Bittner for Secretary/Treasurer, and David Persing as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

Attorney Balducci then stated Norman Koch was nominated for Chairman and asked for any other nominations from the floor. None were made. Attorney Balducci declared nominations closed. Motion to appoint Norman Koch as Chairman was made by Larry Welfer and seconded by Tom Krieger. Motion carried.

Next, Attorney Balducci stated that the committee nominated Thomas McBryan as Vice Chairman and asked for any other nominations from the floor. None were made. Attorney Balducci declared nominations closed. Motion to appoint Thomas McBryan as Vice Chairman was made by Tre Bittner and seconded by Dave Persing. Motion carried.

Attorney Balducci then stated Tre Bittner was nominated by the Committee to become Secretary/Treasurer and asked for any other nominations from the floor. None were made. Attorney Balducci declared nominations closed. Motion to appoint Tre Bittner as Secretary/Treasurer was made by Dave Persing and seconded by Larry Welfer. Motion carried.

Attorney Balducci then stated Dave Persing was nominated by the Committee to be Assistant Secretary/Treasurer and asked for any other nominations from the floor. None were made. Attorney Balducci declared nominations closed. Motion to appoint Dave Persing as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer was made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Tom Krieger. Motion carried.

Next, Attorney Balducci turned the meeting back over to Chairman Norman Koch for appointment of the Solicitor. Mr. Koch stated that Attorney Balducci was nominated to be the Solicitor. Motion to appoint Attorney Balducci as Solicitor was made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Dave Persing. Motion carried.

Lastly, discussion ensued regarding appointing an engineering firm. It was decided that Buchart Horn would be the Engineering firm for the Authority for a six-month period, and then an RFP would go out. On Motion by Tom Krieger and seconded by Tom McBryan, it was approved to accept Buchart Horn as the Engineering firm for six months. Motion carried.

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

Mr. Neidig then gave an overview of the candidate for the Wastewater laborer position, Andrew Reed, and recommended the board hire him. A motion to hire was made by Tom Krieger and seconded by Tom McBryan. So moved.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 7<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, as well as special meeting minutes from November 28<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>, and also the regular minutes from December 19<sup>th</sup>. He called for any additions or corrections. Jeff Lewis stated that he did not attend the meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, and that his name needs to be removed from the roll call for that meeting. There being no other additions or corrections, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Larry Welfer, the Minutes with the correction were accepted. Motion carried.

Mr. Neidig reviewed the Financial Reports. Overall water revenue is strong due to interest income from PLGIT and the sale of Scott's truck. The department is keeping expenses more in line, however, meter expenses are higher than expected due to putting in more pits recently. A discussion on water meters vs. pits took place. Next a discussion on liens on properties took place when Cory asked

for clarification on liens, and this discussion morphed into one regarding depreciation and how it is accounted for.

Jason then reported there was not much variance in flood's financials. The Financial Reports were accepted as presented.

Mr. Neidig then handed out this year's Statements of Financial Interest from the State Ethic's commission. These forms need to be completed and returned to the office in a timely fashion for filing.

### **WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Jason then reviewed the Water Department's report. Some items were listed for street work. The PADOT Salt Brine Mixer project has been placed on hold by PADOT until some time in 2024. Water department ordered a new motor starter for compressor #2 from CH Reed for \$3,184.73 but are struggling to get that starter back. It was to be shipped to us on December 20, 2023, however, we have not received it. Waiting on an updated delivery date.

Our grant application for the PPL Business Energy Efficiency Program is still being processed and we are waiting for a "notice to proceed" letter. PPL is having their engineer start analysis and data collection.

The River plant did not run in December.

Water Department is meeting with Shamokin Dam and also Lewistown Water Plants during the week of January 22, 2024 to see their liquid fluoride process.

The department replaced their polymer pump during the week of January 8, 2024.

Mr. Koch asked where the new truck is at that was ordered through Zimmerman Motors. Mr. Neidig reported it's been a year and a half, and the sales guy was not in to answer his questions. Will continue to try and contact Zimmerman's. Discussion ensued regarding cancelling the order and if the truck is actually needed by the Authority. Consensus was that yes, it is needed, but the time is unreasonable, and the Authority should get other quotes from other dealers. A motion will be added to the next meeting's agenda to cancel the truck order and seek new quotes.

### **FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Jeff Lewis said precipitation was higher than normal and reviewed the statistics.

The 2023 BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities) grant has opened and must be submitted to PEMA to be forwarded to FEMA. Tom Hughes, PEMA State Hazard Mitigation Officer, came to Jeff's office to assist and ensure that he fills out the application and with all the required documents. The Grant was submitted to PEMA. Also, PEMA puts on a class January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Jeff and Ross from Buchart Horn will be attending.

The 2023 FMA (Flood Mitigation Assistance) grant has opened and must be submitted to PEMA to be forwarded to FEMA. Rick Deal from PEMA's State Hazard Mitigation Office, contacted Jeff to suggest that he apply for this grant for the toe drain project. Jeff asked him his opinion if it would be better or worse to apply for the same project for the same amount of money through the same agency, but different grant programs and he replied that he thought it was a good idea to apply through both

grant programs. Grant submitted to PEMA.

The Flood Closure #1 Sill Replacement, request for grant funds: Act 13, Marcellus Shale Fund – Flood Mitigation project involves replacement of the 71-year-old asphalt sill at Closure #1 near the VFW. The grant requirement is a 15% match which is \$17,175 for this \$114,500 project. Approval must be given by the board committing to the required matching funds. Resolution #2023-02 was passed at the April 2023 meeting requesting funding from this grant and also authorizing Jeff and Jason as the officials to execute all documents and agreements. The grant was awarded to SMA today for \$97000. If we go over that, it will be an out-of-pocket expense for the Authority. The process slows down now, as the biggest issue is getting all the permits through the railroad.

Jeff reported the LSA Statewide Grant for the toe drains is currently taking applications and with assistance from our engineer, he will be submitting an application for toe drain replacement. This is a grant for up to \$1,000,000.00 with no match required. The grant was submitted, and an email was returned stating that everything looked good after the initial review. Jeff said it does not appear we received this grant, however, the City's project got approved.

Jeff then talked about the Shikellamy Avenue Stormwater Pumping Station, and that it is not considered a part of the flood control system by the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) and is owned by the city, and they consider it a part of the flood system, as does Jeff. The 1992 maintenance agreement between the city and the authority to take over the flood system makes no mention of transfer of ownership to us for this station. Jeff thinks at the time everyone just thought ownership was with the ACOE.

The 2012 Stormwater agreement with the city states that basically everything involved in stormwater management would be transferred to the Authority except for "Stormwater System Facilities". Jeff asked if ownership of this facility be addressed in the revised storm water agreement we are proposing to the city. Discussion ensued. Jeff to inquire about the process to switch it over.

### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Neidig reported he is researching potential suppliers who can provide quotes for security for our buildings and complexes. He is looking for competitive bidders. Commonwealth Security was a suggested group, and Norm will check with the Milton Borough.

Jason then reported that he had a meeting with Derrick Backer and Lee Zeger from the City on January 11<sup>th</sup> to discuss the status of grants for the Susquehanna Avenue project. The quarterly meeting with the city will be January 18<sup>th</sup>, and they will discuss the status of all city/authority projects at that time. He invited all board members to attend if they wish.

When Scott returns from leave, Jason wants to meet with him and Matt to review the current water and sewer connection fee schedules, and to develop recommendations for updates to them.

Jason reported on the bypass for a filter discharge line. In order to eliminate the challenges involved with building a retention "pond" for the capture of the filter discharge during future sludge pond draining, he believes we need to strongly consider the option of creating a bypass to redirect the flow to the upper sludge pond. Water department is currently researching the cost of materials, and Jason believes our crew could handle the installation.

Jason then gave a fluoride system update. He will be asking for an approval of projected costs for Pat to engineer this project, which will include the cost to prepare and submit the application to modify our permit with the DEP. Bob Herman has been asked to begin to review liquid systems from other area water companies, like Lewistown, to further define our needs prior to submitting the application.

Mr. Neidig then reviewed the situation involving the sewer line issues at the property of 240 S Tenth Street, Sunbury. He passed out notes containing the breakdown he received from the plumber that did the work at this property. Discussion ensued, and it was determined that a meeting should be held with the committee on Friday January 19<sup>th</sup>. The committee will then bring its recommendation to the next board meeting.

There is a PMAA meeting coming up in March regarding board member training so those that are new to board to boards can familiarize themselves with the water and sewer industry. Jason passed out a flyer.

Jason is working on getting new signature cards for the bank to reflect the change in Board leadership roles for Norm, Tom McBryan and Larry.

The run-out claims with Benecon get closed out on March 31, 2024. The Authority is looking at about a \$39,000 refund at this point.

Jason then handed out a document, also just informational, on length of terms for the board.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to approve the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

#### **ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Jason reviewed Pat Ward's report, as he did not attend the meeting. He stated Buchart Horn's proposal for the fluoride treatment project was for \$9,200 on a \$30K project. Discussion ensued. Tabling this for now. No action taken.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report, minus approving the fluoride project proposal. Motion carried.

#### **SOLICITOR'S REPORT**

Attorney Balducci first talked about the Recycle Bicycle release and waiver he prepared and passed on to Jason.

He then gave another overview of the two Authority agreements with the City. One agreement is from 2000. That's about stormwater, and under this stormwater agreement, the Authority took over operation and maintenance of the stormwater system to take that out of the City's hands. The City still owns the system, but the Authority operates and maintains it. The City also must work with the Authority on grants for stormwater. The second agreement was from 2012 concerning the Authority providing water, sewer and flood services to the City at no charge in exchange for the City's waiver of permit fees. The Authority also agreed to absorb one-half of dumping charges up to \$5000 during the City Clean Up events. Discussion ensued on revisions to the agreements, and Attorney Balducci will make the suggested corrections so Mr. McBryan can speak with Mr. Eister from the City about them. He

will add a motion to the next agenda to approve the drafts and have Mr. McBryan present them to the City.

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

#### **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

Jason discussed moving money to the PLGIT account. He asked to keep the Operating Account at \$400,000, and move money to other options if the amount goes over that number. Discussion ensued. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was voted on to allow Jason to move money back and forth between accounts at his discretion. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. McBryan asked for an update on the Second Street issue and also the Sixth Street drainage. Still looking at ways to improve these areas.

#### **COMMENTS**

None

The list of expenditures from January 3, 2024-January 16, 2024 was presented for payment. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Larry Welfer, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Chairman

Approved:

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Solicitor