

REGULAR MEETING

January 21, 2025

6:00 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 21, 2025, at 6:00 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
Cory Fasold, via phone, Board Member
David Persing, Asst Sec/Treasurer
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Jeffrey Lewis, Flood Department Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Jennifer Kremer, Recording Secretary
Josh Brosious, Mayor of the City of Sunbury

Mr. Koch called the meeting to order, and Mr. Welfer 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 Cory Fasold and Jerome Alex, each for a five-year term as a member of the Board.

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.

I, Jerome Alex, 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.

Larry Welfer then addressed Mayor Brosious, and expressed concerns that there was no communication from the City Council regarding the appointment of a new board member, and the loss of Tre Bittner from the Board. He stated, that with some discussion there could have been another solution so that Tre's expertise was not lost to the Authority, but because there was no communication, the opportunity has been lost.

Larry and Tom McBryan also expressed concerns regarding the impacts of private utilities wanting to purchase water/sewer systems for the profit of the City. They provided examples of how these private utilities have increased rates significantly, affecting residents.

The discussion emphasized the importance of transparency and communication between the City Council and the Authority. Josh agreed that the City also has to do better with liaisons and communication.

Mayor Brosious then exited the meeting.

Mr. Koch then turned the meeting over to Todd Kerstetter, who called for nominations for officers of the Board. Todd called for nominations for Chairman of the Board. Larry Welfer nominated Norman Koch. Todd then called for any other nominations, and Cory Fasold nominated Tom Krieger. With no other nominations made, Larry voted the nominations closed, seconded by Tom McBryan and Todd asked for a vote for chairman. Votes for Norman Koch were Aye from Larry Welfer, Dave Persing, Tom McBryan and Norm Koch. Votes for Tom Krieger were Aye from Cory Fasold and Jerome Alex. Todd announced Norman Koch as the new Chairman. Motion approved.

Next, Todd asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Tom McBryan was nominated, and on motion of Larry Welfer to close nominations, seconded by Jerome Alex, a motion was made by Jerome Alex, seconded by Dave Persing, to have Tom McBryan remain the Vice-Chairman of the Board. Motion carried.

Cory Fasold was then nominated for the open Secretary/Treasurer position by Larry Welfer, seconded by Jerome Alex. On motion to close nominations by Tom McBryan and seconded by Larry Welfer, it was voted to appoint Cory as the new Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

Jerome Alex then nominated Dave Persing to remain as the Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, seconded by Larry Welfer. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, to close nominations, it was voted to keep Dave Persing as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

Check signers for the Authority were Norm Koch, Tom McBryan, Tre Bittner and Dave Persing. On Motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Larry Welfer, it was voted to approve Norm Koch, Tom McBryan, Dave Persing, and Cory Fasold to be the new check signers for the Authority. Motion carried.

Mr. Koch then gave Committee and Liaison assignments as follows:

Water Department – Larry Welfer

Sewer Department – Cory Fasold

Flood Department – Tom McBryan

Solid Waste/Rec Department – Tom Krieger

Health & Welfare Committee – Jerome Alex and Dave Persing

Personnel Committee – Norm Koch, Dave Persing, Tom Krieger

Budget, Wage, Salary Committee – Larry Welfer, Chairman, Cory Fasold, Jerome Alex, Jason Neidig

Finance Committee – Tom McBryan, Chairman, Cory Fasold, and Jason Neidig

Fluoride Committee – not needed

Engineering Committee – not needed

City Agreement Committee – Tom McBryan, Cory Fasold, and Dave Persing

Motion made by Tom McBryan to approve all committees and liaisons, seconded by Dave Persing. Motion carried.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

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

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian reported that Scott Debo officially retired. His last day with SMA was January 7, 2025. He personally thanked Scott for his 46 years of service and dedication to the Authority.

Brian then reviewed all the street work that has been taking place, such as several main breaks and leaks, replacing meters and assisting the office with red tags.

Brian stated that Jake and Jamison completed an online flagger course on January 13, 2025.

He then stated that replacing approximately 360 ft of 4-inch pipe on Packer Street from Third Street to Fourth St is being discussed. Tom McBryan suggested checking prices on 4" and 6" ductile.

Brian then reviewed the issues happening with the pump at the River Plant. The new seals that were installed by Motortech were bad, and they also found that the check valve on the pump was bad. They are in the process of installing a spare valve and then will test the new seal. Jason interjected that he and some water department employees visited Motortech to work out the issues and found a good resolution.

Tom McBryan advised Brian not to do shut offs at this time, due to the extreme cold weather.

FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jeff Lewis did not present a report, but was present at the meeting, so gave an update on some grants. The flood closure asphalt sill replacement project needs to happen. Schnable has submitted a plan, however, the railroad had some revisions and sent Schnable revised specifications. SMA needs to get moving with this project. Jeff will make this a priority when he returns next week.

Jeff received a letter from Senator Fetterman saying the request comes out to be \$747,300 and at this time, they expect a full fiscal year 2025 appropriations package will be passed by Congress and signed into law before March 14. They expect all of the appropriations to go through. SMA's share would be \$249,000.

Next Jeff talked about the Marcellus Shale fund, and the flood mitigation grant which is money for the toe drains. That is one of those through the Commonwealth Finance Authority. A meeting is coming up in January, and they will vote. The LSA statewide grant, that one was approved, that's a 400,000 grant and we can use that money to match.

Jeff then reported that a heater broke down at Reagan Street and we cannot have this. Once it starts to rain and moisture starts to get in there it will be a problem, so it needs to be fixed as soon as possible. Flood got quotes from Heim Electric for \$9,590 and Stover's Electric for \$11,000. This will take a while to get in, about 12-14 weeks. An emergency motion was made by Tom McBryan to add this item to the agenda, seconded by Jerome Alex. Motion carried. Tom McBryan then made a motion to authorize the Flood Department to purchase the new heater and have it installed by Heim Electric for the price of \$9,590.00. Motion was seconded by Jerome Alex. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding purchasing a new John Deere mower through Municibid for \$44,000. It is a specialized piece, so needs specific attachments. The Board wants Jason to get more specifications and pricing and bring it back to the Board.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported that DIR has ordered equipment for the security system and are scheduling installation. They have targeted February 15th as the original completion date for the project but are asking for an extension already. Jason is pushing them to complete the project on time.

Jason attended a meeting with PenDOT regarding the South Second Street project. The easement for the lower parking area is in process. The project is scheduled to begin in the spring.

Jason had a meeting with PCS, our system SCADA programmers at the Water Department to discuss ongoing billing issues.

Next, Jason stated he sent a copy of our Regulations to Joyce Neidig and John Barnhart at the City Code Office regarding grease traps. Currently, the code office follows no regulations regarding grease traps. SMA to work with them and update the regulations in the near future. He reported that Guigi's is cooperating with SMA to resolve the grease issue in the line on N Fourth Street. Tom McBryan stated that it is possible that Jay's is also contributing to the issue and this should be looked in to.

Jason gave an update regarding the situation with the Dippels on N Sixth Street. Everything is ready to be installed, however, the Dippels have not yet signed the release form drafted by Attorney Kerstetter relieving SMA of any liability and maintenance of the installed backflow preventer or plug. We cannot install anything until they sign the waiver.

Jason then requested an executive session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke was not present at the meeting. Jason Neidig reviewed Pat Burke's report and discussed the three proposals by Entech for the ongoing Packer Street Reconstruction, Sixth St Sewer Main improvement, and the Levee/Flood Wall System Toe Drain projects. The Packer Street Reconstruction project was separated into phases in the proposal. The Board voted to approve the first phase, Phase 1 Design, including time and expenses, and materials only not to exceed \$29,000, so that Entech can get started. Phase 1 only was authorized on a motion made by Jerome Alex, seconded by Tom McBryan. Motion carried.

Jason then reviewed the Sixth Street to Short Street sewer improvement engineering proposal. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made by Jerome Alex, seconded by Tom McBryan to put this project on hold, pending more information. Matt to take some elevations of the area and report back to the Board next meeting. Motion carried.

Next, the Toe Drain BRIC grant application engineering proposal for \$17,200 was reviewed. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to accept the portion of the work for a fee not to exceed \$17,200.00 based on time and materials. Motion carried.

Jason then talked about the SRBC Grant Application for the Tank Mixers. He said the application is due on January 31st, 2025.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter reviewed his report which included new verbiage on the update to the vacation policy in the employee handbook. The Board reviewed the verbiage, which states an employee may carry over up to one week of vacation time each year. Todd also pointed out that it states in the beginning of the handbook that the Board can make all decisions regarding personnel, so nothing more is needed. On a motion made by Tom McBryan and seconded by Larry Welfer, it was approved to accept the new verbiage on vacation time, and to not add anything else regarding personnel. Motion carried.

Todd has worked with Jason and Matt to draft a consent agreement for the owners of the Sixth Street property. He has also been working with the City to draft an easement agreement for the Weis Markets project.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Items for discussion regarding personnel were covered under the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

COMMENTS

Cory and Jason did a breakdown of accounts and departments and will bring a formal presentation to the Board at the next meeting.

Tom McBryan said he would like to see some 5 and/or 10-year investments happen. Discussion ensued. It was suggested that the Finance Committee meet to determine investment changes.

The list of expenditures from January 7 through January 21, 2025, was presented for payment. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Larry Welfer, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

The board then went into Executive Session at 8:06 pm to discuss personnel issues and policies.

Executive Session ended at 8:18 pm.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to change employee Brian Michaels from hourly to salaried exempt, at an annual salary of \$65,000, and change his title from Assistant Water Department Manager to Water Department Manager effective January 21, 2025. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor