

REGULAR MEETING

July 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, July 16, 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

Thomas Krieger

Larry Welfer

David Persing

Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance

Jason Neidig, Manager

Brian Michaels, Water Department

Jeff Lewis, Flood Department Manager

Michael Balducci, Solicitor

Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary

Tony Gagliardi of Klacik & Associates

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

There was no one present for public discussion.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2024 and called for any additions or corrections. Mr. Lewis pointed out under his report that the Recording Secretary referred to Jason not Jeff under his Report. There being no further additions or corrections, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tre Bittner, the Minutes were accepted as corrected. Motion carried.

Mr. Koch called on Tony Gagliardi to review the 2023 audit. Tony thanked Jason and his staff for their work and told the Board that they get better and better each year. Tony said there were no adverse findings with the audit. He said interest increased quite a bit and capital assets increased. He noted there was no new debt for the year. He said it has been 5 or 6 years since going over the capital assets and suggested it be done. Mr. Bittner asked for a meeting with Tony and the Finance Committee. Attorney Balducci asked the status of the pension. PMRS went down so the Authority went from owing nothing to a \$100,000 liability now. Because the market is up this year it will be reflected in a year or two in the pension liability. Following a brief question and answer period, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tre Bittner the 2003 audit was accepted. Motion carried.

Jason next reviewed the financial reports. Wastewater revenue thru June is on track. Power is working in the Authority's favor. System expenses is

running behind. Jason noted there will be some expenses with the blowers. Water operating revenue is in line. Interest income is in the Authority's favor. Vehicle maintenance expenses are running behind but will gradually come in line. Jason noted that Flood is the most consistent department. Solid Waste revenue is behind target. Landfill fees slightly higher. Recycling is expecting grant income. Jason noted they rely on grant income for equipment. He said there are rumblings grant income is lacking. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tom Krieger the Financial Reports were accepted. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Personnel fixed a leak at 1051 S. Front Street on June 27th when an expansion tank in the meter pit blew apart. Personnel also helped G & R Charles fix 3 leaks from corps that were leaking on Susquehanna Avenue. Foxx Tapping installed an inserting valve on Susquehanna Avenue and Packer Street. Personnel found a leak on the line that serves the baseball fields and bathrooms at the ice rink. It was leaking outside of the wall at the concession stand which is now shut off. The City was notified about the leak and will be taking care of it. Brian noted the City used 437,000 gallons of water last month.

Brian gave a report on a meeting he and Derrick attended about the lead and copper rules.

JP Environmental will be in next week to look at the valves that are sticking when they open.

The 8 inch water main was relocated at the Plaza for the new McDonalds.

Fire hydrants and blowoffs were done the week of June 28th. All hydrants were found in working order.

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

FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Jeff gave an update on Grant applications he submitted. PEMA sent an email stating that the BRIC Grant was denied. According to FEMA the application did not satisfy the eligibility or completeness requirements outlined in the statute, policy or other eligibility requirements. He said Senator Casey is upset and wants answers and is trying to get it through.

PEMA has stated that the notice of award of the 2023 FMA Grant would be announced in August or September.

Jeff is waiting on a reply from the State on clarification he can use the new engineering firm to design the Flood Closure #1 Sill Replacement request for Grant funds. Jeff received an email from Senator Casey's aide that appropriations request thru Senators Casey & Fetterman were denied because the Authority "does not exist". Senator Casey's aides are working to get it straightened out.

The National Weather Service has issued a statement that this year's hurricane season will be above normal. Predictions are for 4 to 7 major hurricanes.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason turned to Entech for assistance with security and then he received a call from DIR Solutions that they will quote an RFP for security at Authority buildings and Entech was brought up to date.

Jason attended a zoom meeting yesterday on the South Second Street PennDOT project. The Authority will have a \$241,000 Grant for the project.

Jason asked the Water Department to exercise all the valves on Susquehanna Avenue from Packer Street to Front Street in anticipation of them needing to be used during phase 2 of the Susquehanna Avenue project.

There was an accident at the Sewer Plant when a tractor trailer went down the alley and hit a telephone pole and took out a hydrant.

The trees on Packer Street were discussed. Mr. Krieger said an email should be sent to Steve Welker with a copy to Jim Eister asking that they address the issue.

Jason received a proposal from Entech for the fluoride system of \$28,100 for engineering.

Jason next discussed an emergency with the blowers. The VFD on the big blower is a 20 year old unit. There are 3 large blowers and 3 small blowers. One large blower is fully functional, one has a VFD problem and the third is down in need of a motor rebuild. One small blower is functioning and the other two need VFD repairs. To replace the panel the cost is estimated at \$18,000 and is 4 to 6 weeks out. To update, the cost is estimated at \$14,000 to \$15,000 per unit and is 4 to 6 months out. A third unit is in stock to place on the wall at \$19,231. Following discussion, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tre Bittner it was moved to purchase the unit in stock for \$19,231.53 on an emergency basis. Motion carried.

Jason reviewed the force account on Susquehanna Avenue and found \$5,476.42 in overcharges.

A \$24,000 Solid Waste CD was renewed at 4.55%.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat said Entech is preparing a cost estimate for the Water Department effluent discharge relocation study.

Pat is waiting on a design concept from CES for the Packer Street project so he can review.

Entech is preparing a task order proposal to design and submit the necessary permit applications to DEP for a liquid fluoride system.

Pat will work with Authority staff to investigate the intake condition via boat when conditions allow.

Entech coordinated a site meeting between Flood Department staff and Schnabel Engineering to discuss the proposed toe drain replacement project. Entech also coordinated a site meeting between Flood Department staff and Schnabel to discuss the proposed sill replacement project. Schnabel and Entech are finalizing a task order proposal for submission to the Board for design and permitting of the project. Entech also coordinated a site meeting between Authority staff and Schnabel Engineering to discuss the inoperable sluice gates and blocked outlet pipe within the abutment of the dam.

Pat represented the Authority at the PennDOT meeting scheduled for July 15th to further his understanding of the South Second Street project's scope and schedule.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci confirmed that credit card surcharging is legal at the federal and state levels with guidelines and notifications which are required to be followed. The amount of the surcharge cannot exceed the amount the business is charged by the credit card company for its processing with a cap of 4%.

The Authority's Regs provide that anybody that is hooked up to the system must pay. When the Rules and Regs are redone it should be added that fire companies do not pay for water. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tre Bittner it was moved that fire companies be exempt from paying for water and the change should be noted in the Rules and Regulations. Motion carried.

Attorney Balducci requested drawings from PPL on the transmission line work being done August 19th thru August 29th.

Attorney Balducci, Jason and Jenn are meeting tomorrow to review changes to the Handbook. Attorney Balducci suggested after the Handbook is complete that it be reviewed by a labor attorney.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Following discussion, on motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Dave Persing it was moved to waive interest and penalties on accumulated flood fees and make a one time offer of \$3,302.79 to PHAC Realty if the balance plus lien fees is paid within 30 days. Motion carried.

Jason said that Erik DePhillips a former employee of the Authority is interested in Bob Herman's position at the Water Plant following Mr. Herman's announcement that he is retiring. Mr. Koch called for an Executive Session at 8:50 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and the meeting convened in Executive Session. The meeting resumed in General Session at 9 p.m. On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Dave Persing it was moved to offer Mr. DePhillips a position at the Water Plant at \$28 per hour and an increase to \$30 when he passes the water operator's test and gets his license. Motion carried

Following discussion, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tre Bittner it was moved to accept payments with no interest for 12 months for home owners for Susquehanna Avenue lateral installations. Motion carried.

Jason said Jeff Lewis' grant application needs engineering from Schnabel and that Schnabel needs to be listed as the official flood engineer. Schnadel will need to provide insurance certificate and standard liability and indemnification. Jason was asked to confirm Schnabel's billing.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion was had on rumors that the City wants to sell the Authority.

NEW BUSINESS

The list of expenditures from July 10, 2024 to July 16, 2024 was presented for payment. On motion of Tre Bittner, 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 9:30 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor