

REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2025

5:00 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, March 18, 2025, at 5:00 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, arrived @ 6:15 pm
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Cory Fasold, Secretary / Treasurer
David Persing, Asst Secretary/Treasurer
Jerome Alex, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Brian Michaels, Water Department Manager
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Patrick Burke, Entech Engineer
Jennifer Kremer, Recording Secretary

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order and Cory Fasold led with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Chairman Koch stated that nobody was present for public discussion.

Pat Burke gave a presentation for the BRIC Grant application. This meeting represents the first of two meetings regarding this application process. The second meeting was announced by Jason Neidig to be on Wednesday April 9, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from February 18, 2025. There being no corrections, on motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Jerome Alex, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian reviewed his report and discussed ongoing items since the last meeting. He reviewed the list of water main breaks, and other street work that was performed by the department. Then stated that they have exercised 79 valves so far this year. They will be replacing the valves they found not working.

Brian then stated that the Robert Hepler plaque has been installed.

Brian next reported that Motortech did a vibration test on the pumps at the plant and the river plant and found everything to be in good working order.

Brian announced that the Little Shamokin Creek Watershed cleanup project is on Saturday April 12th.

The Water Department also assisted the office with red tags and shut offs this month.

Next, a discussion began regarding the use of Fluoride in our water system. After some information was presented regarding cost, handling of the chemical, and DEP requirements, it was determined that a lengthier discussion is needed to determine if the Authority should continue to use the chemical or not.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported that the security for our buildings and complexes was about 95% completed. There were a few revisions to the original plan, but everything seems to be working as intended.

Jason next stated that he has requested additional information from City Officials regarding the maintenance, insurance and general design of the proposed walkway on the levee. He is waiting to hear details back from them.

Next Jason said he is working with website designer Becky Herrold and GES to resolve connection issues between our Flood Department website and telemetry equipment. There is a meeting scheduled on March 19th for this purpose.

There will be a meeting with the City regarding the Packer Street project on Thursday March 20th to discuss funding, etc.

Jason stated the Little Shamokin Creek Cleanup will be held April 12th, with the Authority providing the use of two trucks, trash disposal, and volunteer time. Jason requested a motion to approve the use of Authority equipment for this cleanup. Motion was made by Jerome Alex and seconded by Tom Krieger. Vote was passed and motion was carried.

A quick discussion was started regarding using the Authority's flush truck by outside contractors and the City. It was determined that per previous discussions on this subject, the rate sheet should be respected and used for these purposes, and also that it would be fair if the City would be responsible for half the charges incurred when using the truck on large jobs.

Jason then reported the Personnel Committee went through the interview process for the Flood Department Manager position and the Committee will update the Board in an executive session.

Jason finally stated that the City's spring cleanup will be held on April 8, 9, and 10th from 1-7:00 pm each afternoon. It is for City residents only and they must show proof of residency to be allowed to come in for free. Splitting the cost of this with the City 50/50.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke reviewed his report beginning with an FYI on the current status of the preliminary water and sewer design drawings prepared by CES for the Packer Street reconstruction project between the railroad tracks and Susquehanna Avenue. In order to complete the review, the working conditions of several water valves needed to be determined by SMA field staff.

SMA field personnel checked those valves and found several that were not operational.

Entech is developing piping design options to work around the inoperable valves. These options will be presented to SMA staff when completed. Design comments will then be finalized and returned to CES.

Entech is proceeding with the design of the water and sewer improvements proposed within Packer Street between 3rd Street and Kramer Avenue. Entech is also proceeding with the application for the required PennDOT Highway Occupancy Permit (HOP) for the work that will be completed within the 4th Street right-of-way.

Pat next reported that Entech continues to assist SMA staff with pursuing Building Resilient Infrastructures and Communities (BRIC) grant funding for the Levee Toe Drain project. Entech met with representatives from PEMA on February 12 to get input on the application narrative. Entech is utilizing that input to finalize the application, which is due on April 18. As part of the application process, SMA must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI), which officially informs the PA State Hazard Mitigation Officer of SMA's interest in pursuing BRIC funding. An authorized representative from SMA must sign the letter. The LOI needs the Board's review and approval. On motion made by Larry Welfer, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to approve Entech's letter of intent for the application. Next, on motion made by Jerome Alex, and seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to allow Jason Neidig to sign the Letter of Intent.

Pat next touched on a few topics in process by Entech including The Susquehanna River Intake/Raw Water Main Replacement, the SRBC Grant Application for the tank mixers, the Closure Structure #1 sill replacement, and the South Second Street Stormwater Management project. There is nothing new to report on these projects at the moment.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Kerstetter did not have items to report on, but stated he is available to assist with all projects where needed.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

A discussion was then started by Jason regarding the situation of the Dippels' on Sixth Street. The plug and backflow preventer have been installed and everything seems to be in good order. No issues have been reported.

Pat Burke then gave an update on the grease trap situation at Guigi's. He said the plumber, Eric Kline, spoke to him regarding the trap they are proposing and together they verified what is needed. Pat is pushing the plumber to complete this asap. If it is still not completed after the April 1st meeting,

Todd will draft a letter citing consequences. Jason to send the example of Danville's grease trap regulations to the Board. He and Pat will combine efforts to come up with regulations for the Authority going forward.

NEW BUSINESS

Cory asked if a company vehicle should be used in place of a personal vehicle when an employee has a repeat class or meeting, as this seems a cheaper option than paying mileage. The consensus was yes, if a company vehicle is available.

COMMENTS

None.

The list of expenditures from March 5-March 18, 2025, was presented for payment. On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tom McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

The board then went into an Executive Session requested by Jason Neidig at 6:43 pm to discuss a personnel issue.

Executive Session ended at 7:04 pm.

Upon returning to regular session, a motion was made by Tom Krieger, seconded by Dave Persing, to hire Patrick Bennett in dual roles as the Solid Waste/Recycling Department Manager, as well as the Flood Department Manager at a salary of \$70,000 beginning March 19th, 2025. Motion carried.

Another motion was made by Tom Krieger, seconded by Jerome Alex, to provide/approve additional leadership classes for all levels of management to be completed over the course of the next six months. Motion carried. Jason will speak to all managers regarding this at the next manager's meeting.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor