

REGULAR MEETING

May 21, 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, May 21, 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

Cory Fasold

Larry Welfer

David Persing

Thomas McBryan

Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance

Jason Neidig, Manager – via phone

Brian Michaels, Water Department

Jeff Lewis, Flood Department Manager

Jenn Kremer

Michael Balducci, Solicitor

Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary

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

There was no one present for public discussion.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 16, 2024 and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom McBryan, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Brian Michaels filled in for Mr. Debo. He reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting.

Jacob Peteraf started in the Water Department on April 26, 2024. Brian said he is working out well. He is working on getting his CDL permit.

Brian gave an update on the street work at the Susquehanna Avenue Phase I project.

Personnel severed service to the bath house at the football field, the football field and locker room. These are now served by the new four-inch line. Personnel also installed a new ¾" service at 596 SR0061 (Church parsonage).

A pre-construction meeting for the WAWA Store on North Fourth Street was held on April 24th.

UNIVAR conducted a jar testing class at the plant on May 2nd. Bob Herman and Brian viewed an online seminar on the drinking water regulations for PFAS.

Clark Contracting installed a four-inch service line from the brine building to the location of the meter pit for PADOT's Hamilton maintenance complex. The Authority will bill the contractor \$1,000 for a connection fee and a \$140 inspection fee. The four-inch tap and meter pit work should take place in June.

Mr. McBryan will check elevations for the sludge lagoon bypass line. L/B Water submitted a quote of \$57,919.44 for the piping and valves.

The liquid fluoride project will start with the new Engineer. The staff is working with Univar/USA and CHEMSTREAM for equipment and materials.

PADEP did an onsite inspection on April 23rd for the NPDES permit. A feasibility study for Reservoir #5 will need to be submitted by November 1, 2024.

Quotes to have the media evaluated are being gathered. PADEP requires testing of three filters this year, three in 2025 and four in 2026. Mr. McBryan questioned the need for testing since it is new media.

Brian discussed some issues with the filter backwash valves dealing with vibrations on the filter backwash line. Mr. Krieger and Mr. McBryan offered suggestions

Brian provided copies of the USG Services ROV water tank inspections. Scott is waiting on prices for their recommendations.

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

William Kcenich of PADEP revisited the log jam site on May 1st. He wanted to look at the site while the water was low. He said that the Authority may want the contractors to use the existing downed trees and gravel to make a roadway down to the creek and once there to use the logs from the jam to reinforce the road rather than using lumber mats. He also suggested the Authority store the debris on its grounds somewhere out of the flood plain. He said this work could be done in August if it is a dry summer.

Mr. Fasold asked if the Authority needed to do something with industrial waste compliance. Jason will get an update from Scott.

Mr. Bittner asked if any problems were reported with the Susquehanna Avenue project and Jason said he has received no complaints.

FLOOD DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Jeff gave an update on Grant applications he submitted. The Authority was awarded the Flood Closure #1 sill replacement grant funds.

Jeff is applying for one million dollars thru Senators Casey's and Fetterman's offices for the toe drain project. He noted this is a 25% matching funds grant. A letter of support was given to Senator Fetterman.

Jeff reported on a meeting he had with Representative Meuser and his aide at a recent function. He has 10 million in appropriations to give out and wants Jeff to put in for the toe drain project. He said the request for projects will be out soon and that it is a short window to submit.

Jeff presented Resolution 2024-0 requesting a grant from the Commonwealth Finance Authority for the Flood Water Toe Drainage project. On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to adopt Resolution 2024-0 to request a grant from the Commonwealth Finance Authority for the Flood Water Toe Drainage project and to approve the signing of the Matching Funds Commitment Letter. Motion carried. A copy of Resolution 2024-0 is attached to and made a part of these Minutes.

A meeting will be held on Tuesday with PennDOT and the City regarding Race Street to Reagan Street.

The flood wall was hit by a car. There was no damage to the wall.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

The easement for Susquehanna Avenue for customers in the 600 block of Susquehanna Avenue has been signed.

The dedication of the Board Room is scheduled for July 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

Discussion was had on making Juneteenth an Authority holiday. It was suggested if the City does it, the Authority should do it. No action was taken.

Jason next discussed the safety glasses issue. The Authority currently pays \$179 towards the cost of glasses. Following discussion Mr. Krieger asked Jason to draft a full scale safety policy for review by the Board.

On May 14th Jason met with Adam Purdy and Attorney Balducci to review the current insurance requirements for Authority contractors.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Koch reviewed Pat's written report. Pat's last meeting with the Board will be on June 4th.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci prepared the Easement for Susquehanna Avenue and Jason walked it around and got it signed.

Mr. Balducci gave a report of the meeting he and Jason had with Adam Purdy regarding insurance requirements especially indemnification. Mr. Purdy is okay with smaller contracts under the bidding threshold and waiving indemnification for low risk jobs. Mr. Balducci said he and Adam agree smaller jobs without risk could waive indemnification. Discussion followed. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to give Mr. Neidig and the Department Liaison the Authority to waive the requirement for an indemnification agreement for jobs under the current bidding threshold of \$23,200. Motion carried.

Mr. Balducci said a demand letter was received from the lawyer representing the gentleman who fell on a storm grate a year ago. The letter is now with the adjuster.

The Entech Agreement was reviewed. Mr. Balducci said he made some revisions. He received an email back today and then sent an email back asking about things they didn't answer in his email.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Mr. Koch said the Personnel Committee met with Attorney Kerstetter and Attorney Greco. Mr. Kerstetter's hourly rate is \$150 and Attorney Greco's is \$100. Discussion followed on selecting a new Solicitor. Following the discussion, on motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Cory Fasold, it was moved to hire Attorney Kerstetter. Tom Krieger opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Attorney Balducci asked Jason if he has heard back from Clinton County regarding the Agreement. Jason said he talked with Jay about a week ago and he is waiting on a response from his attorney.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Neidig requested permission to replace the office copier. On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to purchase the copier from TOPP Business Solutions with a 60 month lease at \$94.25. Motion carried.

The Personnel Committee interviewed Andrew Smith for the Wastewater laborer position and Sergei Loundas for the Transfer Station laborer position. Following discussion, it was moved to hire Andrew Smith for the Wastewater laborer position. Motion carried.

Following discussion, on motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to promote Brian Michaels to Water Department Assistant Manager/Manager-in-Training. Motion carried.

Mr. McBryan requested a meeting with the Finance Committee.

The list of expenditures from May 8, 2024 to May 21, 2024 was presented for payment. On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Dave Persing, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Mr. Koch requesting an Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and the meeting adjourned into Executive Session. The meeting reconvened into General Session at 9:00 p.m. with no action being taken.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor