

SPECIAL MEETING

November 26, 2024

7:00 o'clock, P.M.

A special meeting of the Board of the Municipal Authority of the City of Sunbury, County of Northumberland, Pennsylvania, was held Tuesday, November 26, 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:

Norm Koch, Chairman

Larry Welfer

David Persing

Tre Bittner

Cory Fasold

Thomas Krieger, constituting Board Members in attendance

Jason Neidig, Manager

Jeff Lewis, Flood Control Department Manager

Matt Billman, Sewer Department Manager

Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager

Brian Michaels, Water Department

Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary

Jenn Kremer, Assistant Recording Secretary

Jerome Alex

Francis Scarcella

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

Mr. Neidig said he prepared four variations of the Budget, one with no increase, one for a 2% increase, one for a 3% increase and one for a 4% increase. He said each Department will review their capital budget.

Jason called on Mr. Billman first to review the Wastewater Department Capital Improvements Budget which totaled \$1,054,000 for several projects which Matt reviewed. Matt also reviewed non-capital purchases of \$18,046 for 2025. Entech gave an estimate of \$253,750 if Sixth Street is done in-house or \$460,000 if done by a contractor. On Packer Street Entech estimated \$190,250 done in-house and \$355,987 if done by a contractor. Jason has \$250,000 budgeted for Packer Street. Mr. Krieger said an additional \$255,000 should be budgeted for Sixth Street.

Mr. Michaels next reviewed the Water Department Capital Improvements Budget which totaled \$759,500 for 11 projects which Brian reviewed. Brian also reviewed non-capital purchases of \$16,000 for 2025.

Next, Pat reviewed the Solid Waste Department Capital Improvements Budget which totaled \$132,800 for two projects which he reviewed. Pat also reviewed non-capital purchases of \$14,150. Pat had no capital projects for Recycling. A grant of \$189,000 for a bailer has been received.

Jason reviewed the Flood Control Capital Improvements budget which totaled \$75,800 for five projects in 2025. There were two non-capital projects totaling \$19,000.

Jason said billable water usage increased by 1.3% in 2024 versus 2023 while solid waste had a slight decline in revenue. Flood Department and Recycling had little change in revenue. He said the Budget Committee is proposing a cost of living pay adjustment of 3% for all employees and noted the year-to-date inflation average through October 2024 is 2.98%. There are no proposed caps for laborers or foremen.

The Highmark Health Care rates were set to rise approximately 14.8% from the 2024 rates. The Budget Committee recommended switching from the current Highmark plan to a new Capital plan with a \$3,000/\$6,000 deductible. Employees would be responsible for the first \$500/\$1,000 of the deductible and the Authority will pay the remainder. The change will result in a savings of 12.8%. The Authority's projected cost for healthcare and vision premiums is \$245,200. A discussion followed on the stipend paid to employees who elect not to use the Authority's healthcare. Tre had originally thought it should be decreased from \$500 to \$250 a month but has since changed his mind. Mr. Fasold suggested a lump sum payment at the end of the year so if an employee leaves employment in the middle of the year the Authority would be ahead. The discussion ended up with the stipend being set at \$350 a month to be paid monthly.

Rent for the house at the Water Plant was suggested to increase from \$500 to \$600 a month.

The Board next discussed the differences between the 2%, 3% and 4% proposed increases. Mr. Neidig suggested a 2% increase in water and sewer rates while Tre thought 4% was necessary. Mr. Krieger suggested 3% which is close to the inflation rate. Following discussion, on motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Cory Fasold it was moved to adopt the 2025 budget with a 3% increase in water and sewer rates, a 3% increase for employees, increasing rent from \$500 to \$600 a month for the Water Plant house and adding \$253,000 to the Wastewater capital budget to address the Sixth Street backflow issue. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Koch announced an Executive Session at 8:40 p.m. to discuss an employee issue and the meeting convened in Executive Session. The meeting reconvened in General Session at 8:50 p.m. with no action being taken.

There was no further new business brought up.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor