

REGULAR MEETING

November 5, 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, November 5, 2024 at 7:00 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
Tre Bittner, Secretary / Treasurer
Larry Welfer, Board Member
Thomas Krieger, Board Member
Cory Fasold, Board Member
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Department Manager
Michael Balducci, Solicitor
Todd Kerstetter, Solicitor
Jennifer Kremer, Acting Recording Secretary

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

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

Mr. Jeffrey Lewis gave an overview of the situation involving the grant applications for the toe drain project. He stated the FIA grant wasn't funded, and he received an email from Senator Casey explaining the reasons why. There should have been an H and H Study done, and the last one would have been done in the 40s, so that's going to add a lot of time before he can reapply. Need to show the amount of damage that would occur should the flood system fail. They can't justify supporting us based on our submissions. Suggestion is to gather members from Casey's office, FEMA and the engineers along with SMA and make sure the grant submissions are where they need to be before sending them in. The Board thanked Jeff for his update.

Chairman Koch presented the meeting minutes from October 1, 2024. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Larry Welfer, the minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman Koch called on Jason for the Financial Report. Jason said everything seems to be on track with financials at the moment. Nothing stands out. On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tom McBryan, the Financial Report was accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting. On October 30, 2024 they met with Martz Technologies to discuss the Aeration Basin project SCADA system. JP Environmental is to enter into an agreement with Martz to finish the project.

All sewer work is completed on the Susquehanna Avenue project. Storm pipe and inlets are still being installed at the intersection of Packer and Susquehanna. Today, they installed the last catch basin. They have three more crossover pipes to install, and then all of sewer and storm water is complete on Susquehanna.

Customer issues at 141 N Sixth Street were discussed. The Board decided to have an engineering study done to see if water flow in this area can be re-routed to alleviate the problem. They also tried two different backflow preventors here, but neither worked. Not sure where the pressure is coming from.

A customer issue at 606 N Front Street was discussed. Matt and Russ met with the homeowners on 10/28/24 to check out a sewer smell mainly in their second floor bathroom. This started after the Sewer department re-routed the main on Susquehanna Avenue during the project. Matt advised them to obtain a plumber, which they did, and they would now like to be reimbursed for the plumbing bill since they feel our line caused the issue. Matt thinks they need to put in a new trap.

The sewer plant recently has been receiving a lot more fat, oil and greases coming from the Weis line. SMA invited and met with several Weis maintenance personnel on 10/30/24 just to explain what's going on, what we're receiving, and how it affects our processes. They started making their own yogurt which is causing this. They have already begun making adjustments to combat the issue.

Matt reported to meet compliance requirements for our permit, we were required to purchase phosphorous credits again this year. We bought them from Shamokin / Coal Township Joint Sewer Authority, as we have in the past. This year we were contacted because our plant did a little better on the nitrogen side. We had 11,000 plus credits that we could sell for nitrogen. We were contacted by quite a few authorities to purchase our excess. We had to purchase 2227 credits from Shamokin, that came out to \$11,135. In the meantime, we had 11,989 nitrogen credits to sell. As of right now, Matt sold to three authorities, and that total came out to \$16,920.50, so we are to the good \$5,787.50. We do still have about 4,145 credits to sell. All the paperwork has to be in to the DEP by the 15th, so there's still time that we can sell some more credits and help some other authorities out.

Travis Wilson has joined the team at the wastewater plant, and his first day was on 10/30/24. He already has two dig jobs under his belt at the water and sewer line jobs up on Washington Avenue, which was good training for him.

Matt also discussed the overtime policy and requested for his department that it be changed to not include having to physically work 40 hours to be eligible for overtime. Jason stated that this was recently discussed during the handbook updates, but the policy could be changed. Matt reached out to a few other sewer authorities in surrounding townships to find out what their policies are. The Board advised Matt to write up his version of what the policy should be and bring it to the next meeting.

Next Matt said the small garage roof has a leak. He got a price for a pitched roof that came in at \$41,000 but if you read the small print that does not involve any engineering to determine whether that structure is even capable of supporting the pitch. He also got a price just to replace the existing rubber roof, and that came in at close to \$31,000. Currently for this project he budgeted \$25,000 so Matt asked which route he should take. Discussion ensued. Attorney Balducci said anything over \$23,200 has to be bid out.

Matt then said they discovered an issue with the sewer pipes near Guigi's on Packer Street down to Fifth Street. They camera'd the line and found the terra cotta broken and two sink holes developing. Discussion ensued. Matt is to camera the line from Fifth to Kremer Avenue to see if the line can be re-routed.

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING REPORT

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

Pat reported that this December will be the highest in recent history. Also, the Transfer Station took in @221.91 tons more this year than in 2023. As of this meeting, October is 398.07 tons shy of last year at this time.

Pat stated that the Hometown strike is still going on and is affecting our tonnage.

Pat reported that they sold another trailer load of mixed goods to Jeff's Recycling.

Recycling has turned out 16.14 tons more in materials than they did last year at this time.

Pat reported that Nicole Rockwell's last day was October 4, 2024.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reported that we received two quotes for the department security project and there was a major spread in pricing. DIR quoted \$39,000 and Unlimited Technologies out of Philly quoted \$114,000. Jason is to compare the two bids and bring a breakdown of the differences to the next meeting.

Jason then reported that the payment drop box next to the office front door was broken into over the weekend and the two suspects got away with a transfer station deposit bag. It was reported to the police, who are looking into the incident. They had us pull camera footage of the break-in.

Jason stated he did not attend the meeting on South Second Street at Weis; however, it sounds like they are willing to work with us.

Jason asked for a budget committee meeting in the near future to prepare for finalizing the budget. Budget committee members decided they will meet later in the week.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Burke was not at the meeting. Jason reviewed Pat's report, of which all topics had been previously touched on by the managers. No board action was required.

On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tre Bittner, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci reviewed his report and said he will be meeting with Attorney Todd Kerstetter to review the status of current and pending projects.

Attorney Balducci then stated that Tre had been released from the Lozada lawsuit and that he will be working with Jason on discovery replies next week.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Jason asked for the Board Meeting dates for 2025 to be approved. Discussion about the meeting time was held and it was determined that the meetings beginning in 2025 would all start at 6:00 pm instead of 7:00 pm. On motion of Cory Fasold, seconded by Tom Krieger, it was moved to accept the Board meeting dates with an updated start time of 6:00 pm. Motion carried.

Jason asked for an update on the status of the new City agreements. Attorney Balducci suggested that a few council members and a few board members meet to work it out.

NEW BUSINESS

None

COMMENTS

Cory commented that he reviewed the categories in the budget and feels that the accountant should be handling depreciation, not Jason. It should not be in the budget. Cory is to speak with Tony from Klacik's about this.

The list of expenditures from October 16-November 5, 2024 was presented for payment. On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom McBryan, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vice Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor