

REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2023
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, April 4, 2023, 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
Tom McBryan
Larry Welfer
David Persing
Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance
Jason Neidig, Manager
Mike Kerstetter, Sewer Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager
Pat Ward, Engineer
Michael Balducci, Solicitor
Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary

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

There was no one present for public discussion.

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the March 7, 2023 meeting and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Tom McBryan, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

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

Mike discussed the report on oil samples Heim Electrical took in November 2022 for the three transformers. Mike Seaman from Heim said according to the oil analysis results they should all be retested due to elevated gas in oil levels. Mike said he is in favor of waiting until 2024 to have the oils retested. Mike is waiting on an updated price for doing phase three of Heim's recommendations. He also confirmed the Authority would keep the old copper wire.

Mike is moving forward with the emergency portion of Phase 1 of the SCADA upgrade. The components have been ordered.

In September 2022 Mike applied for a \$50,000 grant through USDA which was going to be used to offset the cost of a new sewer camera which at the time totaled \$139,721. Since the application the cost of the new camera and

equipment was scaled down to \$88,338 including the new trailer to haul the camera. Mike was instructed by Jason to contact the USDA to confirm the status of the grant and he did not make the call. Because of the lower price when Mike tried to submit for reimbursement he was told the Authority was no longer eligible due to the reduced amount. Jason spoke to Keith at USDA and he agreed to allow the addition of components to the camera that are needed, such as a generator to run the camera, a tool box that will house the camera with extra wheels and vinyl flooring for the trailer. In spite of the reduction in grant money, Mike will proceed to sell the old camera system and truck separate on Municibid.

The furnace in the employee center was installed and operational. Mike said Mike Martin and Matt Billman did a great job installing the new on demand hot water heater and by doing so saved the Authority a considerable amount of money.

Three quotes were obtained for a new influent sampler at the plant. They are Envirep (2 year warranty) \$10,425; Hach (1 year warranty) \$10,427 and Hartco (2 year warranty) \$9,649. Following discussion, on motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tre Bittner, it was moved to purchase the influent sampler from Hartco at a price of \$9,649. Motion carried.

The Chapter 94 Report was completed and mailed to DEP.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING REPORT

Mr. Bennett gave a Transfer Station upgrade report. The scale was installed on March 16th. A meeting was held with T-Ross to go over the punch list.

The Caterpillar 920 was delivered on March 15th. The rubber pad arrived on March 23rd. On March 27th the radio was removed and Keystone Communications installed the CB radio. Tom Brady from Caterpillar will be at the Transfer Station on April 5th to conduct training.

The baler repairs were completed on March 15th and put back in service. The backlog was cleared by March 17th.

Pat thanked the Board for approving the purchase of a radiation identifier.

DEP was at the Transfer Station on March 30th to examine the completion of the facility. Feedback was positive and a 200-ton weight limit was granted immediately.

Pat said the haulers received their rate increase letters on March 23rd. Feedback was not positive.

Pat's report contained a chart of daily averages for Transfer Station tonnage in March. He also provided March previous tonnages from 2018 thru 2022.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason said he still had a couple of outstanding issues at the Transfer Station with T-Ross.

The cost of the baler repair was \$17,614.

There will be a meeting at City Hall on April 12th at 4 p.m. to update the Susquehanna Avenue and Packer Street projects.

Jason is looking for grants for camera and gate modifications for Water, Wastewater and Flood Departments.

Plans are under way for a grand reopening at the Transfer Station.

Jason reported the PLGIT account has been set up.

Jason received several Right to Know requests which he discussed with Attorney Balducci.

The Authority's natural gas rate expires in July. Jason has been monitoring the rates.

The Upper Augusta audit has been received. There are several issues that need attention on the audit.

On motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Dave Persing, it was moved to approve the Managers' Reports. Motion carried.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat passed out a chart with the 2023 monthly capture rate. The 5-year rolling average dropped to 84.2%.

Bid opening for the Court Street Stormwater Improvement project was awarded to G & R Charles based on their bid of \$89,148 subject to review. There were several issues with the contractor's execution of bonds and agreements that had to be worked out. Pat is expecting the executed agreements next week after which a notice to proceed will be given to the contractor. Attorney Balducci said the issues were technical in that G & R Charles is a limited partnership and the limited partners does not bind the partnership. The docs had to be signed by the general partnership.

Bids for the Aeration Basin No. 4 project will be opened at the May 4, 2023 meeting.

Pat and others met with two EPA and two DEP representatives for two hours at the Wastewater Plant on March 30, 2023 to hear the Authority's plea for a change to the NPDES permit by returning it to its prior language. No promises were made by EPA and they assured us they will get back to the Authority with a written position and explanation for the permit change.

Pat asked Attorney Balducci to confirm the Consent Order will self-terminate upon DEP's acceptance of the Construction Completion Certificate for the roof expansion project.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Mr. Balducci said he continues work on revising the Drug and Alcohol Policy with information Jason provided from a recent employment issues seminar he attended.

Attorney Balducci worked with Jason on a letter to Derrick Backer.

Mr. Balducci contacted Mr. Ward regarding indemnification language in contracts and Mr. Ward has standard indemnification in Buchart Horn contracts.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Jason said PennDOT has advised there will be no grant money for water/sewer lines on the City's South Second Street project. Mr. McBryan asked Jason to obtain a copy of the plans for the project.

NEW BUSINESS

The list of expenditures from March 22, 2023 to April 4, 2023 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 announced an Executive Session at 9:05 p.m. to discuss a personnel issue and the meeting convened in Executive Session at 9:06 p.m. The meeting reconvened in General Session at 10:03 p.m. with no action being taken.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vice Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor