

REGULAR MEETING
December 19, 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, December 19, 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
David Persing
Larry Welfer
Tom Krieger
Tre Bittner, constituting Board Members in attendance
Jason Neidig, Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Department Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager
Jeff Lewis, Flood Control Department Manager
Michael Balducci, Solicitor
Karen Campbell, Recording Secretary
Robert Hare, Jr.
Jerome Alex
Francis Scarcella, Daily Item Reporter

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

Robert Hare, Jr. of 240 S. 10th Street, Sunbury discussed an incident that occurred when water and sewer backed up in his basement and why nothing was done by the Authority. Mr. Billman said Mike Martin was working the weekend and he contacted Russ Wertz who was there on Saturday and he determined it could wait until Monday because the problem was in the middle of the street and Mr. Hare's plumber was already there and had dug up the area. Mr. Hare asked that the Authority cover his costs. Mr. McBryan said it was his opinion that any costs to make repair should be Authority cost. Discussion followed. Mr. Krieger moved the Authority should cover the costs incurred. The motion died for lack of a second. Vice Chairman Koch asked for an itemized list of Mr. Hare's costs and assured Mr. Hare whatever is the Authority's responsibility will be paid. Mr. Hare left the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Mr. Koch called for approval of the revised 2024 budget which was revised to a 7% increase to the General Manager's salary; starting hourly increase from \$17 to \$19; an increase of \$100,000 in each of the water and sewer budgets for City projects all of which resulted in a 2% increase in water and sewer rates. On

motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tre Bittner, the 2024 budget was adopted. Motion carried. Mr. Bittner said he wanted to go on record that he hopes the Board will consider a yearly increase to the General Manager's salary to bring his salary in line with others in the surrounding area. Mr. McBryan said any increases should be performance based.

Mr. Koch read an emotional letter of resignation from Charles Schlegel to be effective December 31, 2023. A copy of the letter is attached to and made a part of these Minutes. On motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tre Bittner, Mr. Schlegel's letter of resignation was accepted with regret. Motion carried.

Next on the agenda was the assignment of a liaison from the Authority to Sunbury City Council. Discussion followed. The matter was tabled until City Council decides what they are doing

Mr. Koch presented the Minutes of the November 7th meeting and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Tre Bittner, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

Mr. Neidig reviewed the financial reports. Water income is favorable and interest income has increased. Power purchase is down and sludge disposal is to the Authority's benefit. Lab expenses are higher. Digouts still need to be done. Sewer operating revenue is off but interest income has increased. Labor cost has increased a little and professional services higher for the lab. Flood Department is very consistent. Solid Waste good in revenue. Landfill fees, building and equipment maintenance higher. Recycling's revenue is a direct reflection of the revenue generated by the Solid Waste group. As an example, Jason said \$3 per ton of trash and 25 cents per trash bag is directed to Recycling revenue, so as the revenue for Solid Waste continues to rise so does the revenue for Recycling. The 902 Grant has not been received. On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Dave Persing, the Financial Report was accepted. Motion carried.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting. Matt reported that the Authority did not receive the Covid 19 PA Small Water Sewer Grant. Jason said the City received two grants but the Authority got none. Matt would like to get with Derrick Backer on what other grants are available for this project.

The paving of six digouts was done by his Department at a cost of \$5,163 not including employee wages. G & R Charles had quoted \$22,925 for the same work.

Matt next discussed the North Sixth Street water issues. He and Jason reviewed the study that was done by Uni-Tec in 2004 to try and remove the artesian pond from the system. He said according to the study it was not completely feasible to accomplish. Tom McBryan suggested some ideas for Matt to try.

Matt had nothing new to report at this time on Second & Line Streets. There were no flooding calls and no back-up on Reagan Street. Matt received a set of drawings for the Auto Zone store which is proposed for Upper Augusta Township.

SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING REPORT

Pat reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting. A scale inspection was done in November and will be done again in May 2024.

This year's November tonnage was higher than any November in previous years.

Pat submitted another amendment letter to Joe Delgrippe on November 21st to continue pursuit of the 902 Grant. The 904 Grant request was submitted on November 27th.

A trailer load of mixed goods was sold to Jeff's Recycling on November 21st.

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

WATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jason reviewed Scott's written report.

Commonwealth Disposal removed 1,236,000 gallons of water sediment from the sludge pond from November 9th to November 30th at a cost of \$135,960 including \$4,000 for pump rental. A section of the sludge line was dug up to remove the eighteen inch air plug that was stuck at a joint.

The PADOT Hamilton maintenance complex salt brine mixer project is on hold until 2024.

Compressor #2 is up and running. The cost of the starter was \$3,184.73.

The river plant did not run during the month of November.

New meters were installed at 596 State Street and the new Steve Shannon property on Shikellamy Avenue.

Buchart Horn submitted the Risk Management Plan on December 6th.

FLOOD CONTROL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Jason reviewed Jeff's written report.

The punch list for the WPA stone wall replacement has been completed.

The BRIC Grant has been resubmitted. Jeff expects the grant for the Flood Closure #1 sill replacement and the LSA Statewide Grant for toe drain replacement to be awarded at the next CFA board meeting. The next meeting date has not yet been posted.

Jason reported on the surprise visit from Senator Casey regarding the understanding of what the job of toe drains is. Mr. Bittner said he is much more hopeful the Authority will get a grant. Jason said it was a very positive meeting.

MANAGER'S REPORT

After the beginning of the New Year Jason said he plans on addressing service installation fees for residential and commercial services. A recommendation will be made to the Board at a future meeting.

Jason received a quote of \$152,000 from Reynolds Iron Works for the diverter project at the Transfer Station.

Interviews for the open laborer position at the Wastewater Department were held. Pending receipt of the background checks Jason will be recommending the hiring of Brian Swartzlander at the January 2nd meeting.

Jason completed the benefits review with employees on December 12th.

The cost of the security system is in the budget. The estimated cost is \$275,000 to \$300,000 and must go out on bid.

A man contacted Jason and said he collects bicycles to recycle and asked if bicycles could be set aside at the Transfer Station for him to pick up once a month. Discussion followed. The Board agreed to do it on a trial basis and requested that he sign a Release.

Attorney services for 2024 will be the last year for Attorney Balducci.

Discussion was held on possible replacements to fill the unexpired term of Charles Schlegel which will expire December 31, 2024.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Jason reviewed Pat's written report. Mr. Ward was unable to attend the meeting due to an eye infection. Jason said he talked with Pat today and Pat indicated there was no action required on his report.

On motion of Dave Persing, seconded by Tom McBryan, it was moved to accept the Engineer's Report as presented. Motion carried.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

Attorney Balducci said he has roughed out an Agreement with the City for shared services and an amendment to the Stormwater Agreement. Discussion followed. Mr. Krieger suggested in correspondence to the City to respond the Authority is not required to do this but the Authority is working in good faith.

Attorney Balducci reviewed the Sunshine Act with the Board.

On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tom McBryan, Mr. Balducci's report was accepted as presented. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Krieger requested a written response from the employees who showed up on Saturday at Mr. Hare's house and give an assessment of the situation. Mr. Billman and Jason were asked to review the bills submitted by Mr. Hare.

NEW BUSINESS

The list of expenditures from November 2, 2023 to December 5, 2023 was presented for payment. On motion of Tom Krieger, seconded by Tre Bittner, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Vice Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor