

REGULAR MEETING

November 7, 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, November 7, 2023, 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
Thomas McBryan
Larry Welfer
Tre Bittner
Jason Neidig, General Manager
Matthew Billman, Wastewater Manager
Patrick Bennett, Solid Waste/Recycling Manager
Michael Balducci, Solicitor
Patrick Ward, Engineer
Jennifer Kremer, Acting Recording Secretary

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

Jason noted that Pastor Roy Clippinger from the Upper Augusta Oaklyn Baptist Church was supposed to attend this meeting, but he did not show.

Mr. Koch presented the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting and called for any additions or corrections. There being no additions or corrections, on motion of Tom McBryan, seconded by Tre Bittner, the Minutes were accepted as presented. Motion carried.

There were no financial reports to review. Jason gave a general rundown stating there are some discrepancies with differences in budget amounts versus what was projected. Nothing new but be aware that the revenues on the wastewater side are a bit higher than we anticipated, which is a good number. Interest income as well, which was not anticipated at the beginning of last year. Some of the offsetting expenses also, so numbers so far are definitely looking pretty good overall.

Hearing no questions, on motion of Tre Bittner, seconded by Larry Welfer, the financial motion was accepted.

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT REPORT

Matt reviewed his report and discussed activity since the last meeting. Covid-19 PA Small Water Sewer Grant is on for the next meeting, which is November 21, so hopefully that will come to a close.

Personnel are working on cleaning and televising lines in the Line and Second Street areas. The manhole was replaced in the field. Personnel were unable to get the flush truck in the field to clean the lines due to the conditions of the field and the weight of the truck.

Paving of the essential dig-outs for the water and sewer departments are planned for next week around the City. Debris is at 19 ton so far and 12 and a half hours for our crews. Jason interjected a huge "Thank You" to the Sewer Department employees for their efforts recently.

Staff cleaned the effluent and UV channels on October 27, 2023.

Matt received a customer call from N. 4th Street of a manhole that when driven over by large trucks would shake his whole house. The street crew checked and what they found was that the manhole actually slipped a little lower than the road, so every time a truck runs over it, it bounces. They added a layer of cold patch to the transition of the manhole, and the customer was very happy with this repair.

The new SCADA computer in the operations office has been installed and is currently running in tandem with the existing computer to make sure there aren't any glitches that need worked out. The remaining work that was approved is still ongoing.

SOLID WASTE / RECYCLING REPORT

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

Pat reported a record-breaking month for October. A record 2898.94 tons for the month. That is the most tonnage this department has ever taken in for one particular month. The daily average for the month was 111.50 tons.

The week of October 9-14, 2023 was the highest week ever, with 737.61 tons. The daily average for that week was an astonishing 122.94 tons.

As of October 31, 2023 Pat took in 1780.4 tons more in 2023 than were taken in at the same time in 2022. There were 1,015 more weigh-ins than at this time the previous year.

The facility can realistically handle confidently around 200 tons daily.

Pat emailed Joe Delgrippe from the DEP numerous times checking on the status of the disbursement for the 902 Grant funds. Per Joe, it has been processed and sent for payment and should take 4-6 weeks for funds to show in our account.

Pat reported 24.50 tons of clear glass, 24.99 tons of brown glass, and 23.50 tons of green glass was sold to Recycall. Pat also sold 17.38 tons of baled plastics to NH Kelman. This was a good month for Recycling.

On October 26, the rubber flap at the end of the tipping floor at bays 1,2 and 3 was replaced. T-Ross sent two members from their crew in to teach personnel how to install this rubber flap. It was a big task that was accomplished by 5 people in 5.5 hours with two lifts. Pat hopes to handle this process from now on if necessary to replace the rubber again. They found what is causing the issue and are taking steps to prevent this and prolong the life of the rubber.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

Jason reviewed our service installation fees for residential and commercial services and will make a final recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.

Buchart Horn supplied an updated drawing for the Diverter System which now includes a needed deflection sheet. He is in discussions with Reynolds Iron Works in Williamsport to determine if this is something that they could produce and install.

Jason met with Upper Augusta's attorney, Todd Kerstetter, and Pastor Roy Clippinger from Oaklyn Baptist Church to discuss the wildcat hookup of their parsonage to our water main, and to review the details of the \$4,527.96 bill for the water usage. Pastor Clippinger did not attend this board meeting, but the board decision was to allow him to repay the bill over time in installments.

Jason reported that Emily Reis is resigning her position with the Authority effective December 8, 2023 to spend more time with her children. She has been with the Authority for 10 years.

On Monday October 30th, our management team along with David Persing, Tom McBryan and Tre Bittner all met with members of City Council and some other City officials to discuss the future city street projects, and also the agreement between SMA and the City. Jason requested direction from the Board on future projects regarding how much money he should add to his budget. There are many projects coming up in the next few years that the Authority will likely need to contribute to. Discussion ensued, and Tom McBryan suggested they hold a special board meeting on Tuesday November 14, 2023 to discuss the future projects and how much money would need to be allocated for these projects.

Jason reminded the group that some board seat terms are up for renewal in 2024 so he will need to submit a letter to the City requesting these seats be renewed.

Jason discovered we have an unused man lift that was being stored at the ice rink and was being used by the city to change light bulbs. Personnel brought the lift back to the Authority and fixed it up. The hope is to use it to help replace the rubber at the Transfer Station facility in the future. Jason needs to figure out where to store the lift. Tom McBryan suggested that if the city continues to also use this lift, they should be responsible for half the maintenance bills when repairs are necessary.

Jason asked Tom McBryan if it is now okay to begin billing Ironstone/Zartman for their new sewer connection in Upper Augusta. Tom said yes. We are also to begin billing for the Steven Shannon connection. It was pointed out that McDonald's will also be hooking up with a 2" line.

Jason asked for approval of the new Board Meeting Schedule for 2024. A motion to approve the new schedule was made by Larry Welfer, seconded by Tre Bittner. Motion carried.

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

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Pat Ward reported that there was little going on with the Zimmerman Armory Project. Zimmerman continues to work on this through Upper Augusta Township. He did ask the Sewer Department for a letter indicating SMA has the capacity to serve the project.

The Aeration Basin project was supposed to happen this fall or winter, however, JP Environmental has told Pat it will likely not happen until February due to their schedule.

Pat spoke to John Reynolds regarding the Transfer Station deflectors. He is coming to the facility to see what all is needed at 7am on Wednesday November 8, 2023.

The new Transfer Station General Permit has been received.

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

SOLICITOR'S REPORT

There was no written report, but Attorney Balducci reported that he received a letter from Derrick Backer at the City requesting a written opinion on the agreement between SMA and the City. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of the dig-outs that are to be handled by the City. The hope is that we can come to some sort of new agreement with the water/sewer bills and the dig-out charges. This new agreement would cancel out both the old agreements.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Tre Bittner stated there was a meeting with himself, Jason, Jenn and Emily from SMA along with Jessica and Lisa from Swift Kennedy regarding health insurance for next year. Switching carriers from Capital Blue to Highmark is the suggestion for 2024. Tre explained that the coverage is very similar with about \$30,000 in savings. Highmark will also manage the HRA, which would become seamless for the employees. Motion to approve the change from Capital Blue to Highmark made by Tre Bittner, seconded by Tom McBryan. Motion carried.

The list of expenditures from October 19 to November 7 was presented for payment. On motion of Larry Welfer, seconded by Tre Bittner, the list of expenditures was approved for payment. Motion carried.

Mr. Koch announced an executive session to discuss personnel matters and the Board recessed from general session at 8:50 p.m. The Board convened in executive session at 8:53 p.m. and reconvened in general session at 10:00 p.m. with no further action being taken.

There being no further business, on motion made and seconded, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Vice Chairman

Approved:

Solicitor