

REGULAR MEETING BLOSSBURG MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY
MARCH 5, 2019

The regular meeting of the Blossburg Municipal Authority was held on Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at 7:00 PM in the Council Room.

The following members were present: Chairman M. Stoudt, Vice Chairman J. Bubacz, Jr., Treasurer J. Eckman, Secretary S. Hall and new member P. Bauman. Also present was G. Lloyd, Borough Manager and L. Lazouras, Recording Secretary.

Chairman Stoudt called the meeting to order at 6:59 PM. He welcomed new member P. Bauman and we look forward to working with him. His term expires at the end of this year.

MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting held 2/5/19 and the reconvened 2/11/19 meeting were brought up for discussion. There being none, a motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That the minutes for both meetings be approved as read." All in favor.

BILLS BE PAID

Unpaid bills for sewer \$20,022.99+Boro 2/19 Wages Repay

Unpaid bills for water \$21,803.11+\$9,264.76 Penn Vest monthly payment +Boro 2/19 Wages Repay

The following discussion was held on the bills: 1.) J. Bubacz asked about the sewer and water wages repay. The sewer amount \$6,929.75-has to be broken down into code numbers, as does the water amount of \$5,750.67. 3.) Water-A bill was received from Graham Heating for \$375.00 to replace a gas valve for the space heater at Bellman. J. Eckman asked if this was propane but it is natural gas. 3.) Sewer-Interest on new WWTP loan to FCCB will be due this month but did not receive the statement yet. 4.) Water-replacement payment has to be made to Frontier for Bellman and the Rod & Gun phones and to Penelec for Bellman and the Gun Club for previous paid bills. They did not receive the payments and we did not get the checks back. 5.) The bill from Wetmore was for survey work for the new Taylor Run water tank. There being no further discussion on the bills, a motion was made by J. Bubacz, seconded by S. Hall, "That the bills be paid." All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Eckman reported the balance in sewer of \$52,331.26 and in water \$52,922.10. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Bubacz, "That the report be accepted subject to audit." All in favor.

Treasurer J. Eckman discussed investing funds for the water with FCCB that are presently in separate accounts, to get a better interest rate. In the water we have the money market and checking account for daily operations, and do not have a cash flow problem. We have a regular savings account we will not do anything with. We have a separate account for the Penn Vest loan repayment which will stay the same. We have CD#26, #79 and #83 which we can combine into one CD at the best term and interest we can receive. We also have our CD's invested with C&N. There is also money in the Royalty MMI we can earn better interest by opening CD's with FCCB. Beth had given us a list of investing amounts and terms of 30 to 60 months CD's. He would like to suggest we invest \$500,000 from the Royalty MMI with interest to compound quarterly into the best terms and interests we can receive. S. Hall wondered about possibly investing more. He also asked what the balance is owed on the Penn Vest loan and when that will be paid off. Leesa will report this at our next meeting.

INVESTMENTS

In the sewer we have three CD's that could be reinvested for a better rate. It was asked if there would be any penalty for early withdrawals from the accounts and there could be but it would still be worth it because it would be made up in earned interest. George said we will have to check with RUS about reinvesting sewer funds since we got the loan from them and cannot jeopardize that, so we will find out before doing anything. S. Hall asked if we open CD's would they be laddered and J. Eckman said he would talk with Beth about it.

OLD BUSINESS:

A.) WATER UPDATE

They are looking for leaks. Jim Rakoski on N. Wmsn. Rd. is away for the winter, and a leak was found inside and was shut off until repaired. Ed Montague found another 40,000 gallon leak at his apartment building on Main St. In Morris Run are several leaks. There was a 4th leak this month on a Blake Road 2" line. Our guys are repairing this line using full circle clamps so they do not have to cut the pipe.

B.) DELINQUENTS

Cheryl has typed up a sample letter to use for collecting. This was given to the members for review. S. Hall said there should be a set time period and J. Bubacz agreed.

C.) INFILTRATION-LETTER TO DEP

George reported that when we have to by-pass the stp, due to excess water from snow melt or rain, we send in a letter to report it. Since they know we are working toward a new plant and are under the Consent Order we have not heard back from them.

D.) WATER FUTURE I-99/BUSINESS 15 CORRIDOR

George said UTRA has a meeting with RUS next Wednesday about funding from them, since they did not go with Penn Vest.

E.) CHEMICAL REDUCTIONS AT STP

We are still adding the ferric chloride at the sewer pump house.

F.) TAYLOR RUN-SOUTHWESTERN

George has not heard from Erika. M. Stoudt said we need a sign off letter.

G.) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT BOOKLET

Georg said we are getting plans drawn up for the new water tank and water line. We are also working on the new sewer plant.

H.) CASSELBERRY

Jim is working on paperwork for SRBC on the new Taylor Run wells and should be sent out the end of this month. It will probably be in the fall before he hears back from them.

I.) OLD HOSPITAL-S. Nickerson has talked with another interested person.

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J.) HYDRO APPLICATION WATER WITHDRAWAL-WATER ALLOCATION

K.) PIPELINE BY TR

George reported the materials have been ordered and will be coming from down south where the pipe is fabricated. This will be stored at the garage and they will put it on a trailer to take to the site as work proceeds. M. Stoudt asked if George had talked with Hamilton Twp. about running the pipe along the road. They have a meeting next Monday that George will attend to discuss along with the sewer rate increase letter.

L.) INTERNET AND SOFTWARE PAY BILLS ON LINE

They are working on this and will be done later in the year.

M.) POWER PAY-George and Mike

N.) NEW STP

George and S. Bray met with HRG and looked over the preliminary maps and the location of new pipes. They also looked at the lines for by-pass instead of having to pump out on the ground during high readings.

O.) BRAY WTP EVALUATION

He will work on this after the new Taylor Run well line is in and the tank is up.

P.) BR GENERATOR

George is working with a man to locate manifold pipes and getting it fixed. It was noted we are lucky we haven't had to use it.

Q.) AGREEMENT HAMILTON TWP. TAYLOR RUN ROAD

George will also bring up about a sign for a protected watershed and weed spraying along the road next week.

R.) BR DAM

S. Bray is working on a design for the new sediment dam that washed out last year, and will file the necessary paperwork.

S.) REPSOL WELL PAD DORN-HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

This was returned to them for signatures and not received back yet.

T.) WIND TURBINES

This is on hold and nothing more heard so it was suggested we can remove it.

U.) PAINT BR TANK

When work is done at Taylor Run we will look at this work.

V.) REPSOL AGREEMENT BR SURFACE WATER MONITORING

This was put in above Bellman and Jim Casselberry and Dan can check it on the Website.

W.) RAILROAD PROPERTY-R. WILSON

George read to the members the Resolution prepared by Attorney Bill Stokes to accept a Deed in Lieu of Condemnation for the Wilson Property for additional entrance for access to the property designed for the new Sewer Treatment Facility at 55 East Creek Road. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by J. Bubacz, with all in favor, "That we approve this Resolution." All in favor. Doing it this way will allow us to avoid legal fees and the delay inherent in a condemnation action. Mike and Leesa signed this and George will take it to Stokes where it will be submitted with the deed at the Court House.

George said DEP was at the sewer plant and they discussed putting a culvert in instead of a pipe for the water to go through for the new driveway to the plant.

X.) FCCB INVESTMENTS

This was discussed. A motion was made by S. Hall, seconded by J. Bubacz, with all in favor, "That we reinvest the Water Co. monies into CD's based on the terms and conditions of the recommendation from FCCB." All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Requisition #5 from the Line of Credit was received from HRG in the amount of \$20,200.57 covering 12/31/18 to 2/3/19 for engineering to be sent to RUS. A motion was made by J. Eckman, seconded by M. Stoudt, "That this bill be approved for payment." All in favor. J. Bubacz and S. Hall are to sign the request.

The members were given a copy of the progress report from HRG dated 3/4/19. They are meeting their schedule and doing well and the Chairman said we do not want any delays. In June and July they plan to have the Erosion & Sedimentation control plan ready, NPDES Permit for Storm water Discharge, DEP Chapter 105 Joint Permit Application and the Water Quality Management Permit. Mike asked what happens if they fall behind and George said once they submit the permits it is out of their hands for a reply time.

B.) J. Eckman noted that businesses have to accept cash and not just credit cards because it is against the law denying a person the ability to pay if they do not have a checking account, charge or credit cards. One business, Big Lots, had to change their method for receiving payments.

C.) S. Hall wanted to commend George on the article in the Wellsboro paper following the Council meeting. It was well explained why we are required to do the sewer rate increases to pay for the new sewer plant.

There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:47 PM on motion of S. Hall, seconded by J. Eckman, with all in favor.

CHAIRMAN

SECRETARY

