

NEWPORT BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
January 13, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT – Harry Fahnestock, Penny Frownfelter, John McNaughton, and Jerry Robinson.

OTHERS PRESENT – Adam Britcher (Solicitor) Robert Hasemeier (Engineer) and Dean Miller (Operations Manager).

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – by Chairman Trevor Kaufman at 7:00 P.M.

REORGANIZATION –

Moved by Robinson, seconded by Frownfelter to keep all officers in present positions. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Borough Council members – The Borough received water bills for the month of January and are questioning why they are receiving bills since they haven't in the past. Robinson explained that taking out a general obligation bond backed by the Borough gave the Water Authority a reduced interest rate. In return, an agreement was made in 1998 to give the Borough credit toward their water bills, calculated at the rate of 1/10th of 1 percent of the beginning of the year balance, until the bond was paid back. He also pointed out that he has brought up the subject at Council meetings. Frownfelter mentioned that the Borough also backs the Sewer Authority bonds. Britcher commented that the obligation to the Borough was met either in 2009 or at the latest 5 or 6 years ago. The Council is concerned about the monthly billings since this obligation was not included in their budget.

Also, there was a question regarding the calculation of the hydrant rate and how hydrants are maintained. It was explained that the hydrants are billed at a flat rate per hydrant, are flushed once a year and inspected at that time. If repairs are required, parts are ordered and paid for by the Water Authority. There will need to be research into the by-laws to see who has responsibility for replacement and repair.

It was suggested that an ad hoc committee be created to discuss terms and that water bills to the Borough be deferred for six months. The Council will discuss these issues at their next meeting.

2. Sewer Authority – The start up will happen this month, although the project won't be completed at that time. The system will be filled up to check for leaks and effluent, not public water, will be used for the process.
3. Frank Campbell – There was a fairgrounds meeting and the engineers have completed work on updating the study. Miller and Hasemeier will be consulted to ensure the revised plans will work for the Water Authority. There is an upcoming planning session to discuss the revisions.

ENGINEER'S REPORT –

1. CBDG grant – The application is still being evaluated, there won't be a decision until March.
2. DCED grant – There won't be anything happening on this grant until March or April.
3. USDA Meter Financing – All requested items were sent last week, and Hasemeier is currently waiting to hear if anything additional is needed.
4. Well #1 – The permit modification, to replace technology and install a submersible pump, is required to be into DEP by the end of March.

OPERATIONAL REPORT – Dean Miller

1. Update 5th/6th/Fickes – There are no new complaints.
2. River Plant operation – Currently more water is being made at the river plant than has been coming in at the Howe Treatment plant.

3. Sewer connection – The new water connection has been completed. Work is continuing on the abandonment of the connection to the old wastewater plant.
4. Burger King – The business is up and running. Water lines have been marked in the area where their sign is to be placed.
5. Sewer project – During the next couple of weeks there will be directional boring in Howe Township for the sanitary sewer project. They will be going under Juniata Parkway and in the west Shortcut Road area. There will be a pump station in that area.
6. SRBC quarterly reports were completed and filed today, in advance of the January 31st deadline.
7. Staff is performing leak detection, since there appears to be water loss in the system.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Adam Britcher

1. Liens/Sheriff Sales – There is one sale next month.
2. Personal Property & Real Estate Claims – These are still in progress.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

1. Delinquent Accounts –

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by Fahnstock to approve the December Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Frownfelter seconded by McNaughton to approve the December bills. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Robinson, seconded by Frownfelter to approve the December Adjustment Report. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by Robinson, seconded by Fahnstock to approve the December 9, 2019 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Dam sale – There was an additional request for information.
2. Ronca invoice – The Board is in agreement that a letter will not be sent at this time and the invoice will not be paid.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Insurance renewal – The Capital Blue Cross premium will increase by 7% and United Concordia will increase 2%.

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to stay with the current plans. Motion carried unanimously.

2. STD/LTD/Life – Proposals for these benefits are included in the Board packet. The matter is tabled until the next meeting.
3. Service contracts – Hach sends a yearly invoice of \$14,000 for quarterly inspections and calibrations. Control Systems 21 sent a proposal of \$1,000 per quarter for inspections, which does not include parts and labor. Miller will provide service reports to show what work is actually being performed by Hach.

ADJOURNMENT – Moved by Fahnstock, seconded by Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Debra Kunish
Recording Secretary