

NEWPORT BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
August 3, 2020

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

OTHERS PRESENT – Adam Britcher (Solicitor) and Robert Hasemeier (Engineer). Dean Miller is absent.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ENGINEER'S REPORT – Robert Hasemeier

1. According to PennDot the repaving project will be broken into two parts, going south on Route 34 from the creek will be done in 2021 and then from the creek into town will be done in 2022.
2. Howe Township – The permit application was submitted to DEP last week. Hasemeier has prepared a letter to DEP listing the items the Authority has done to comply with the consent order. Miller will finalize the letter.
3. NPDES permit – An email was received from them regarding problems with the NPDES permit renewal due to the consent order being in process. Hasemeier will reach out to them to get more information.
4. USDA Meter Financing – Miller received a request for additional information from Sean McElroy about rolling the Authority's current debt into the loan at a fixed 40-year loan at 1.125%. Hasemeier has looked into the opportunity of converting the loan into a grant, although it is unlikely, there may be federal funding for municipal infrastructure up for distribution. The timeline seems to be going as expected. Then, there will be the 120-day requirement from the consent order on the Howe plant that requires work be completed within that time frame of receiving the permit. In order to receive the USDA money, the state engineer will need to review the plans and specifications and let the Authority know that it is complaint and may be bid. A letter will be sent letting DEP know this is how the Authority is complying and that work should be completed within the next 9 to 10 months.
5. CBDG grants – There is no new information, they did request additional information on Well #1 pump replacement and that has been provided. It will take 2 to 3 months before their internal process is completed and then there will be an agreement for the Authority to sign.
6. Projects for the future – The water line on the bridge may need to be removed and put back under the river. The river plant membranes may need to be replaced in the next 3 to 5 years. If grant money is received, it could be put into a Capital Project fund for future needs.

OPERATIONAL REPORT – Dean Miller is absent

SOLICITOR'S REPORT – Adam Britcher

1. Liens/Sheriff Sales – There is a sale on the schedule, but it isn't clear whether it will happen.
2. Dam sale – There was one new inquiry. Information has been sent out to everyone who has inquired but there has been no serious interest.
3. Personal Property & Real Estate Claims – Nothing new to report
4. Sewer tapping fee – Nothing new to report

TREASURER'S REPORT –

1. Delinquent Accounts –

Moved by McNaughton, seconded by Frownfelter to approve July's Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to approve the July Adjustment Report. Motion carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by McNaughton, seconded by Fahnestock to approve the July 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Borough/Sewer usage –
2. Dam sale –

NEW BUSINESS –

1. SelecTech annual agreement – A document listing the precautions that have been taken to guard against hacking will be requested.

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to approve the annual SelecTech contract. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Monthly meetings – The Board is in agreement to change the timing of the monthly meetings to the second Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. This will allow for better end of month reporting.
3. 2020-2021 Budget – The Board is considering family insurance coverage, information regarding costs will be supplied at the next Board meeting.

BOARD COMMENTS –

1. Harry Fahnestock gave notice that he will resign from the Board when a replacement is found.

ADJOURNMENT – Moved by Fahnestock, seconded by Frownfelter to adjourn the meeting at 7:57 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Debra Kunish
Recording Secretary