

NEWPORT BOROUGH WATER AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
December 8, 2020

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

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

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER – by Chairman Trevor Kaufman at 6:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Paul Britcher, Fairground committee – The committee needs to pay out grant money by the end of December. They are asking to receive by mid-December a completed bill for the entire project, so that it can be paid in advance of the work being done. Hasemeier stated there will be a \$900 meter fee, \$4,200 meter pit cost and inspection fees, among other fees. A letter will be sent this week outlining all the costs.
2. USDA meter financing – Tom O’Connell from Juniata Valley Bank came in to discuss interim financing. The loan would be for \$1,425,000 for 24 months with monthly interest-only payments, at the rate of 2.24% rate, and a \$1,000 origination fee. They will not require a Borough guarantee.

ENGINEER’S REPORT – Robert Hasemeier

1. USDA meter funding – Some specifics about the engineering work will be submitted to Sean McElroy and he is also working on meter types and specifics, so the Authority can move forward with bids. Ultrasonic or magnetic flow meters are being considered and these low flow meters have a life expectancy of 30 years.
2. CBDG COVID monies – The money has been submitted to Perry County and may be available by the end of the month.
3. Well #1 – There has been some permit modifications completed and submitted to DEP. As soon as the permit is received the project can go out for bids.
4. NPDES permit for the River Plant – Hasemeier and Miller will coordinate a reply to DEP comments and submit a response.

OPERATIONAL REPORT – Dean Miller

1. Update 5th/6th/Fickes – No new complaints. The auto flushers have been removed due to cold weather.
2. River plant operation – The plant is running well. Staff are still doing the additional cleans and it is showing improvement as a result of that.
3. COVID – The personnel have split shifts due to COVID 19 and that allows additional running hours.
4. Fairground connection project – The application for the project has been received, as well as a PA 1 call and the lines are marked.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT – Adam Britcher

1. Dam sale – Nothing to report.
2. Personal property/Real estate claims – Nothing to report.
3. Liens/Sheriff sales – Nothing to report.
4. USDA loan interim loan choices - The Bank of Landisburg offered 1.6% interest rate but will need to see if they will require a Borough guarantee. If the Board approves, the settlement will take place in January at the meeting. Pennian Bank is charging \$2,500 in origination fees. The Borough will discuss guaranteeing the final loan at their December 15th meeting. The Board is in agreement to move forward with the Bank of Landisburg. The interest for the interim loan will be paid out of the final loan.

TREASURER'S REPORT –

1. Delinquent accounts -

Moved by McNaughton, seconded by Fahnestock to approve the November Treasurer's report. Motion carried unanimously.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by Fahnestock to approve November 10, 2020 regular meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS –

1. Borough/Sewer usage –
2. 2020-2021 Budget – The approved budget was included in the Board packet.
3. Robinson remarked that replacement of the old galvanized water line on Front Street to Fickes Lane would require about 1,039 feet of new line to be installed. There are three customers on the line and no additional customers can be added because of the flood plain.

NEW BUSINESS –

1. Health insurance renewal – The proposal was received for the new insurance rates. Dental insurance with United Concordia will remain the same. The premiums for health insurance with Capital Blue Cross will be reduced by 7% and the deductible will remain the same.

Moved by Frownfelter, seconded by McNaughton to approve the insurance renewal package. Motion carried unanimously.

BOARD COMMENTS –

1. Frownfelter commented that the Borough is considering purchasing the property at 640 Oliver Street. The house on the property burned down and it was sold at tax sale to the county.
2. Robinson said someone has dumped shingles and rubbish onto the Well #6 property. It will be investigated, and a letter sent to the property owners, if needed.
3. Kaufman asked if the Board is interested in having Zoom meetings in the future due to the rise of COVID 19 cases. At this time, the Board will continue to meet in person.

ADJOURNMENT – McNaughton moved, seconded by Robinson to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

Debra Kunish
Recording Secretary